

[PHOTO ATTACHMENT]

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‘Women Musicians through Time’ Exhibition at FAU’s Wimberly Library through April 28

BOCA RATON, Fla. (March 22, 2017) – “Women Musicians through Time,” an exhibition that recognizes the contributions of 20 female musicians, including legends Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters and Marion Harris, will be on display during regular library hours now through Friday, April 28 at Florida Atlantic University’s Wimberly Library, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus.

The exhibition, an homage to Women’s History Month, uses FAU Libraries’ Recorded Sound Archives (RSA) to highlight contributions the artists made in the fields of jazz, blues, opera, classical, comedy and pop music as early as the 1900s.

“Women have come a long way in many fields and the music industry is no exception,” said Carol Hixson, dean of FAU Libraries. “We are proud to pull from our RSA to build a significant exhibition that offers a glimpse into the careers of talented women who helped to shape the music industry.”

Visitors to the “Women Musicians through Time” exhibition can expect an introduction to the sounds, images and profiles of the artists. For example, visitors can hear Smith’s voice, which earned her the honor as the most popular female blues singer of the 1920s and 1930s. Read about Waters who began her career as a blues singer in the 1920s and was successful as a jazz singer, gospel vocalist and actress. Check out the style of Harris, another artist from the 1920s, who was the first widely known white singer to sing jazz and blues songs.

Some of the other musicians featured are jazz musician and songwriter Billie Holiday; Doris Day, who began her career as a big band singer in 1939; singer Etta James, who began her career in 1954 and used her voice to bridge the gap between rhythm and blues and rock and roll; and Janis Joplin, an influential singer of the turbulent 1960s.

Alethea Perez, operations coordinator for the (RSA) and the exhibition’s curator, was inspired to create the exhibition after reading a book that included an excerpt about rapper and singer Lauryn Hill’s fascination with old vinyl records. Perez revisited the idea during the

summer of 2016 after watching a movie featuring Smith and other female blues singers. As Perez worked in the RSA, she learned about other artists, some famous and others not so famous, and their role in the music industry.

Perez paired cardboard album covers and 78 RPM recordings with portraits of the female artists throughout the exhibition. Copies of newspaper clippings from the Library of Congress' "Chronicling America" website add information about their careers.

The exhibition also features an audio computer listening station for visitors to listen to snippets of the recordings.

"The exhibition turned out better than I imagined," said Perez. "The more I dug for information, the more I found. It is good to show our students some of the materials that they may not be aware that we have here in the library."

For more information, call 561-297-0080 or email aperez@fau.edu.

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Photo Caption

[WomenMusicians1jpg](#): Top, left to right, Marion Harris and Billie Holiday; Bottom, left to right, Ethel Waters and Lauryn Hill.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of critical areas that form the basis of its strategic plan: Healthy aging, biotech, coastal and marine issues, neuroscience, regenerative medicine, informatics, lifespan and the environment. These areas provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.