

# JUDE JOHNSON

## *My Roots are Showing Too*

Canvas, acrylic, collage, recycled material, assemblage

“As a young child, I would accompany my father, Bernard Johnson, down to James Street North to visit Anne Foster’s store to buy his vocal sheet music. My dad was a well-known opera singer, starring in many radio and TV CBC productions and concerts across the country. My grandmother, Winifred Johnson, was a Licentiate of Trinity College of Music in London, England and taught voice, piano and elocution on Queen Street South for decades. She too, would purchase her music for her students there. I was born in Hamilton and have created a career in the arts here for the past 43 years, performing countless concerts as a singer/songwriter, educator and the Director of the MAD Creative Art School as well as being a visual artist, working in found object sculpture, collage and acrylic.



Detail from *Music of the highland forest*



*Jazz Improv (L) and Hendrix has gone to heaven (R)*

This installation has incorporated my family’s history in music. My Nana’s sheet music has been collaged into the paintings, representing the forest floor where the roots of trees have taken hold like the music within us flowers with light and love. The left side of the installation is homage to the classical music I have a deep love for. It soothes my soul. The Anne Foster logo is also collaged into a few of the pieces as well as musician guild local 293 emblems.

The right side window is inspired by improvisation and Jazz. This is my heart’s delight to sing. I dedicate this to my dear friend and musical collaborator for 35 years, Carl Horton, who passed away in December 2017. He was my muse. I danced on these abstract canvas with tears. We travelled many roads hence the maps. It holds soul.

The guitar sculptures are a fun deference to the guitar players of the Hammer, many that I sang with over the years.

Music is the universal language. It connects us all. Hamilton has a rich history of all genres of music, from the classics to jazz to rock and roll and punk. These paintings are a glimpse into one artist’s heart which beats to a 4/4 rhythm most of the time.”

- Jude Johnson

**About the Artist:**

Jude Johnson is an award winning musician and artist living in Hamilton. Listen to songs by Jude's father [Bernard Johnson](#) and by [Jude Johnson with Carl Horton](#) on the piano at [www.hamilton.ca/music](http://www.hamilton.ca/music). To find out more about Jude and her paintings email [jude.johnson@bell.net](mailto:jude.johnson@bell.net). Jude's work will be on display until August 26, 2018.

**The Anne Foster Windows:**

As part of the City of Hamilton, Tourism and Culture Division's ongoing support of the creative industries, local artists will be invited to create and install window displays that celebrate Hamilton's music scene. This space, the Anne Foster Window, is a fitting home for music themed displays as the entryway lead to the Anne Foster Music shop for almost 50 years (1947-1995). For more information visit [www.hamilton.ca/music](http://www.hamilton.ca/music).

