

Extremely happy about this!

## **MULTIPLE GRAMMY AWARD WINNING ARTIST JANIS IAN DONATES PERSONAL ARCHIVES TO BEREA COLLEGE**

BEREA, Ky. – Multiple Grammy Award winning recording artist, songwriter and musician Janis Ian has donated her entire archives, along with her father’s 1937 Martin D-19, to Berea College’s Special Collections and Archives at Hutchins Library, where they will be made available for viewing and study in the future.

Visitors to the Berea College Special Collections and Archives will be able to view Ian’s correspondence with other musical artists, famous friends and collaborators, while flipping through song notebooks, diaries and a journal that includes Ian’s first poem, written at age 10.

Not only will fans around the globe be able to view memorabilia and materials from her decades-long career; they’ll be able to support efforts to preserve, catalog, digitize and display the priceless items at Berea and eventually in an online archive. Ian and Berea College are jointly establishing a fund to preserve the legacy of her career in perpetuity.

While many artists have received significant amounts of money for turning over their archives, The Janis Ian Archives are entirely different – Ian’s belief in Berea College is so strong that she has donated all materials without compensation. Her only stipulation is that records remain open to the public, not just academic researchers. To learn more about the Janis Ian Archives Fund or to donate, visit <https://www.berea.edu/give/jiaf/>.

The Janis Ian Archives are a unique resource for music history research, offering public access to evidence of Ian’s life and career, including publishing, recording and live performance contracts, copyright paperwork, tax returns, contracts and correspondence dating back to 1964. The extensive archival collection even includes Ian’s grandparents’ immigration papers, circa 1916. It also chronicles the House Un-American Activities Committee years, with insights into her parents’ FBI files (and what FBI surveillance cost the family over the decades). Additional materials document the journey of Ian’s 1937 Martin D-18 guitar and her involvement in the civil rights, women’s, and gay rights movements.

“We are honored Janis Ian has chosen Berea College to house the archives from her remarkable life, and we look forward to making these items available to the public so others can get a glimpse of the significant mark she has made in the music industry and really all of American society,” said Berea College President Lyle Roelofs.

Archivists at Berea College are currently cataloguing the collection, which will be available for public viewing sometime late in 2023.

“As a historian and archivist, it is truly amazing to be working to catalogue and make available this priceless collection,” said Tim Binkley, head of Berea College’s Special Collections and Archives. “Traditionally, a collection of this magnitude would only be found in a big city. To have a collection like this at Berea College is quite an honor, and we look forward to completing the cataloguing of these items so they can be shared with the community and the world.”

Born in Farmingdale, N.J., in 1951, Ian released her final solo studio album this past January. Titled “The Light at the End of the Line,” it garnered Ian her 10th Grammy nomination – coincidentally the exact same category as her first Grammy nomination.

“It takes a certain amount of maturity to realize that you don’t have to keep proving you can write,” Ian says in her biography, which can be found on her website at [janisian.com](http://janisian.com). “I’ve already created a body of work I’m proud of, and I’m old enough to realize that it’s the light at the end of the line that matters.”