

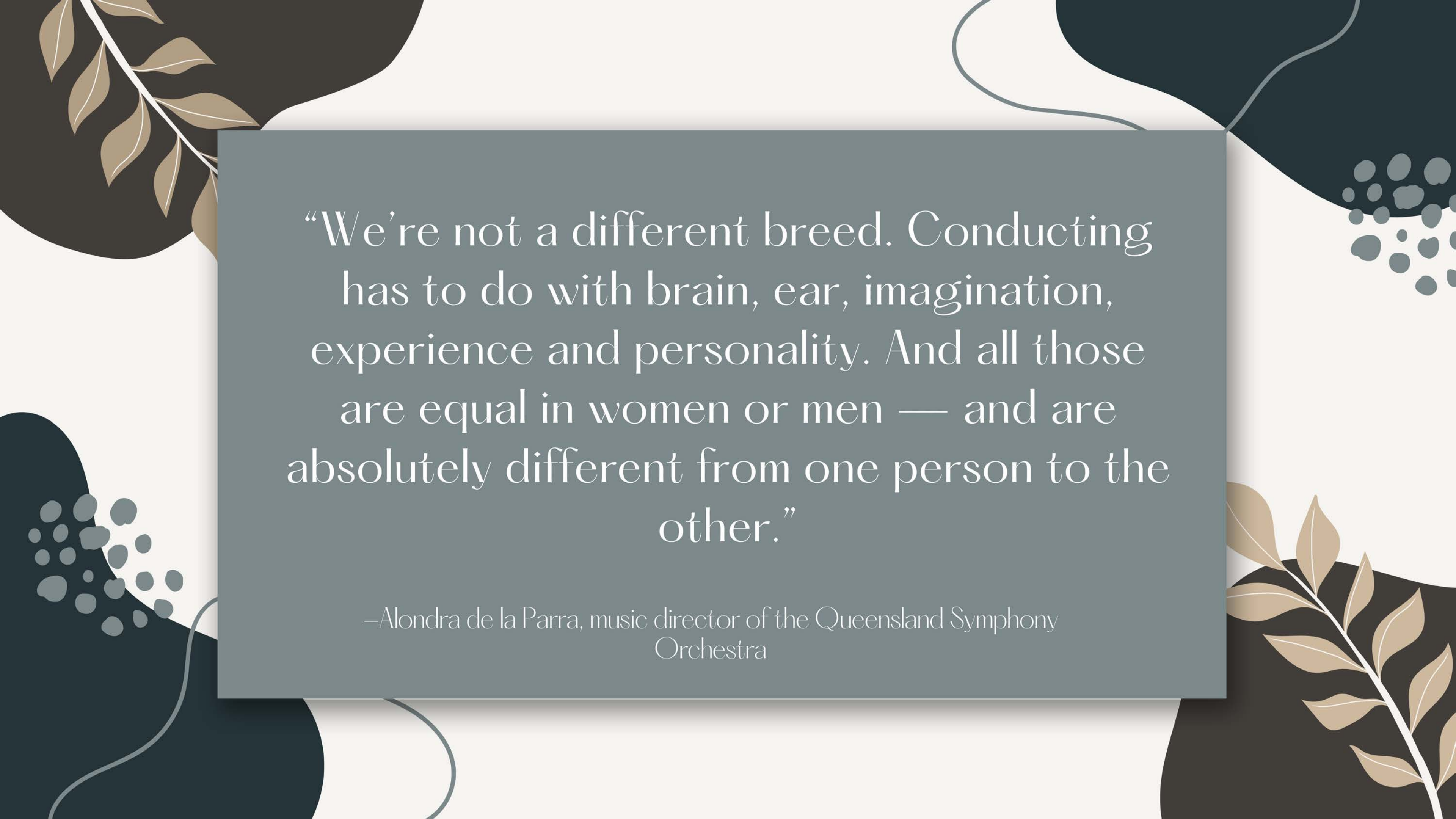


# Empowering Women in Music

*Ashley Matse*

*Please take a piece of  
paper...*

What is a criticism you have received or a judgement made by others based on your gender in your field?



“We’re not a different breed. Conducting has to do with brain, ear, imagination, experience and personality. And all those are equal in women or men — and are absolutely different from one person to the other.”

—Alondra de la Parra, music director of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra

# Some numbers...

## Conductors



- Male, 86.9%
- Female, 13.1%

## Orchestra Directors



- Male, 63.6%
- Female, 36.4%

## Band Directors

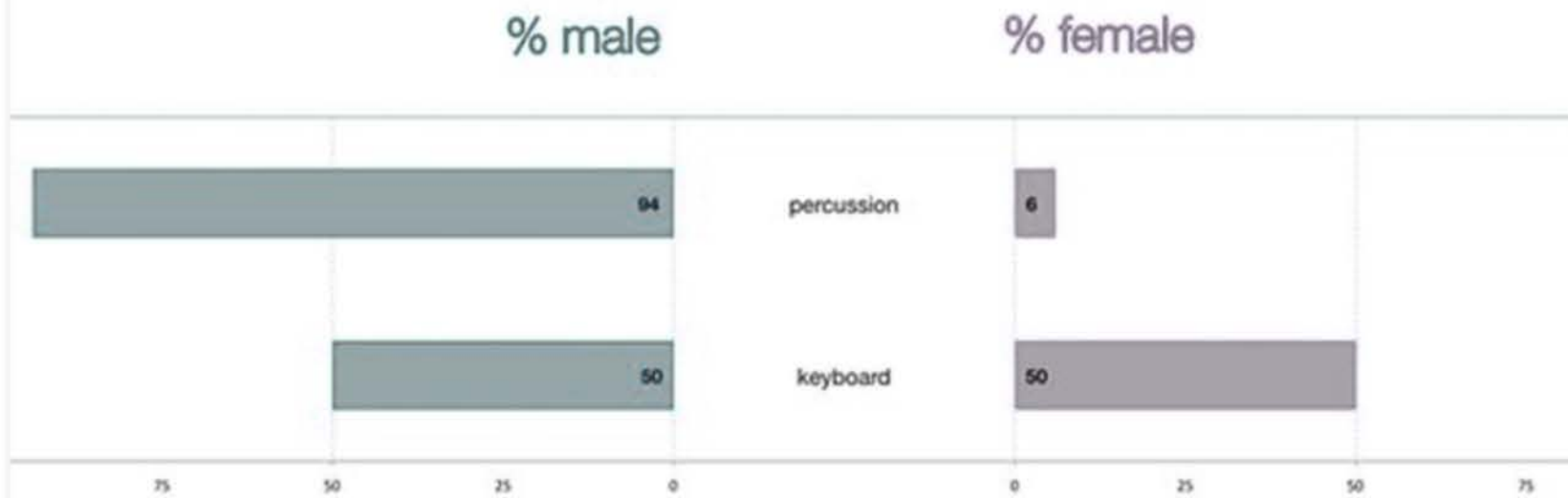


- Male, 71.4%
- Female, 28.6%

Though women comprise the majority of all music education majors, the percentage of women in band directing positions is as low as 30% at the middle school level - this percentage decreases with increasing grade level: 20% at high school level and 10% university level

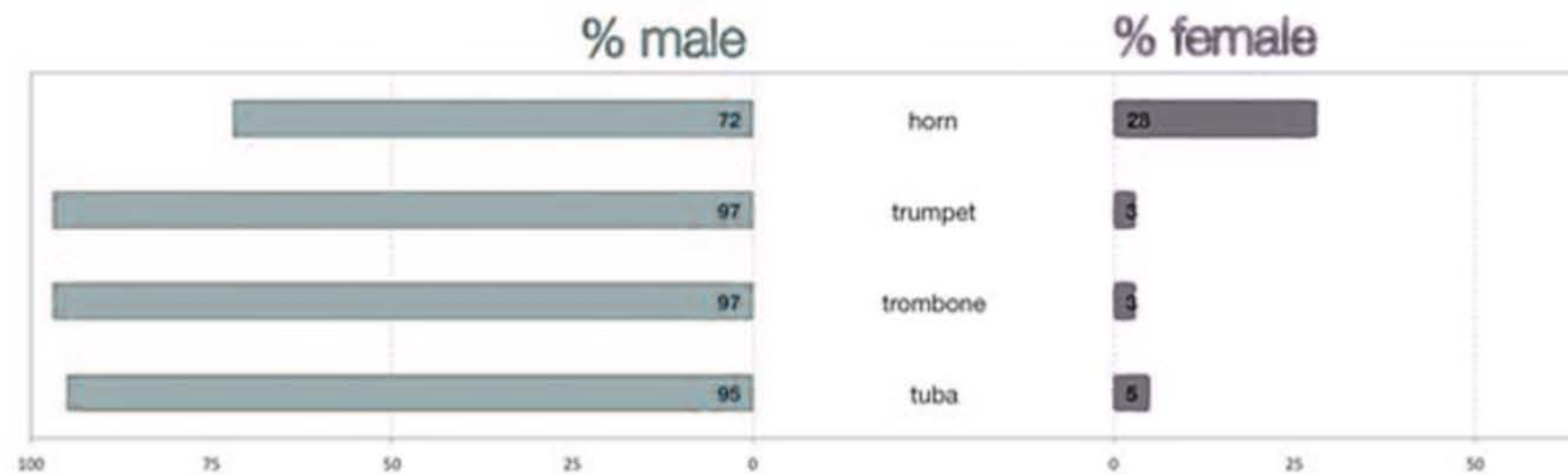
# Some More Numbers...

% male/female for percussion/keyboard



Note: Timpani is included in percussion.  
Celesta, Piano, Organ etc are included in keyboard

% male/female for brass performers



Note: bass trombone is grouped with trombone

## Operas by Women Composers at the Met:

Ethel Smyth: “Der Wald” (1903)

Kajja Saariaho: “L'Amour de Loin” (2016)

Jeanine Tesori: “Grounded” (2024-25 season premiere)



*Education*

*Visibility*

*Advocacy*

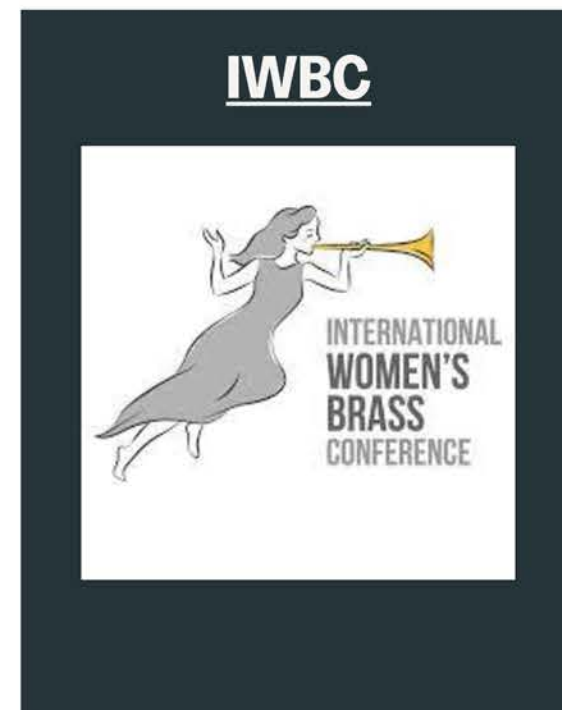
# Mentorship

“... retention and promotion rates for women participating in mentoring programs increased from 15 percent to 38 percent.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/andiekramer/2021/07/14/women-need-mentors-now-more-than-ever/?sh=2a60968c2bbd>

# Organizations

*For Women Musicians*





# Organizations

*For Women Musicians*



# Financial Support

## For Women Musicians

- SAI Philanthropies Grants and Scholarships
- **Local Music Educator Association Grants:**
  - PMEA, CMEF, OMTA, TMEA, *and others - check your local Music Education Association!*
- MTNA Foundation Fund Grants
- Women Band Directors International Scholarships
- International Alliance for Women in Music Grants
- Women Make Music Fund
- The Blackburn Composers Competition and Scholarship

*Take another piece of  
paper...*

What would the young aspiring you need to hear? How could you empower young you or any young woman aspiring to be in your field?

Empowering Women in Music

# Thank you!

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Please let me know if you would like  
a copy of links and resources!

*Ashley Matse*