

# 96Hours

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SHE BOP: BAY AREA GIRLS ROCK CAMP'S AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IS A HIT. PAGE 21



Melissa Coats / Special to The Chronicle

Ximadra Fincke, 9 (left), and Bridgette Flint, 9, practice for their band the Rock Angels.

## THE CHOPS CORPS

**:: Girls Rock Showcase ::** Young musicians hone their playing, writing and performance skills

Everybody knows that girls inherently "rock," but that doesn't mean they couldn't benefit from a little help fine-tuning their shtick. That's where Bay Area Girls Rock Camp comes in.

Loosely affiliated with the other nonprofit Girls Rock camps around the world, including the original in Portland, Ore., that started in 2000, the Bay Area's first Girls Rock camp started in Oakland last summer and morphed into an after-school program in January called Girls Rock After School Program (GRASP) for girls ages 8 to 18.

Led by an all-volunteer staff of female musicians, GRASP's 20 participants have been honing their electric guitar, bass, keyboard and drumming chops and writing original songs for 10 weeks. At the sessions, held once a week at the Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts in downtown Oakland, the girls form their own bands and play whatever they want.

"The music world is very male-dominated," says GRASP founding Director Carey Fay-Horowitz, a former volunteer at the Portland Girls Rock Camp. "This is a place where they're not overshadowed by men."

The four bands formed during the program will perform this Saturday afternoon at a concert at the Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco. Following the show is a screening of "Girls Rock!," the 2007 documentary about the Portland program.

Zap Bain, 11, a sixth-grader at Claremont Middle School in Oakland, plays guitar in one of the groups. She and her bandmates haven't decided on a name

yet, but they do have a killer song, "Herstory."

"It's about how girls and ladies get more power over time and are able to do different things," says Zap, who cites space travel as an example and an inspiration for these lyrics in "Herstory":

*Man went to the moon  
Women didn't so soon  
It was a while  
Till we went those miles.*

Zap, who also plays trumpet in her school band, wants to be a zoologist and sees playing music as something she'll do for enjoyment. "But it would be OK if I became famous for music," she says.

Soncerrae Walker, 11, a sixth-grader at St. Elizabeth School in Oakland, plays keyboard in the group Pop Rocks. The song her band will perform is about daydreaming — something she hasn't been doing as much of since she's been in GRASP. Instead of just thinking about playing music, *Soncerrae* is now going out and doing it.

The next GRASP session begins in the fall, with registration in the summer. Those interested in the weeklong summer camp program can apply now until May for two sessions in June and July.

— Paul Kilduff, [96hours@sfchronicle.com](mailto:96hours@sfchronicle.com)

**1:30 p.m. Sat. \$8. All ages. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St., S.F. (415) 621-4455. [www.bayareagirlsrockcamp.org](http://www.bayareagirlsrockcamp.org).**

# Family