

# ESPERANZA SPALDING



“Needless to say, any genre-based view of jazz as something that should be hemmed in by any stylistic rules does not apply in her world.” [THE LOS ANGELES TIMES](#)

In one of the most startling achievements in jazz history, bassist Esperanza Spalding captured the world’s attention upon earning the title of Best New Artist at the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards. A gifted composer with a hypnotic voice, Spalding looks forward to stretching the boundaries of jazz and continuing her evolution as a musician with the 2012 release of *Radio Music Society*, which she describes as “bombastic and fun – funkier and more upbeat” than her critically acclaimed *Chamber Music Society*.

Spalding’s critically acclaimed 2008 release, *Esperanza*, remained on the top of the *Billboard* Contemporary Jazz Chart for over 70 weeks. *The New York Times* raved, “*Esperanza* has got a lot: accomplished jazz improvisation, funk, scat singing, Brazilian vernacular rhythm and vocals in English, Portuguese and Spanish. At its center is a female bassist, singer and bandleader, one whose talent is beyond question.” If *Esperanza* marked a brilliant beginning for this gifted young artist, then her follow-up projects set her on a path to prominence. Inspired by the classical training of Spalding’s younger years, *Chamber Music Society* combines the spontaneity and intrigue of improvisation with sweet and angular string trio arrangements, resulting in a sound that weaves the innovative elements of jazz, folk and world music into the enduring foundations of classical chamber music traditions. Her upcoming record, *Radio Music Society* had originally been planned as a dual release with *Chamber Music Society*. In this next great chapter of her career, Spalding redefines the jazz genre again with an exciting new repertoire of funk, hip-hop, and rock elements fused into songs that are free from categorization.

When Spalding performs live, the audience can’t help but be drawn into her web of sweet vocals and fierce basslines that *The Montreal Gazette* claims “grabs you in a reassuringly visceral way.” She’s graced the stages of the finest concert halls and festivals around the world, performed at the White House, the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony, the BET Awards, and alongside the likes of Stevie Wonder, Wayne Shorter, Joe Lovano, Herbie Hancock, the Roots, and Prince. The many poetic reviews of Spalding’s live shows fittingly reflect the theatrical experience of the performances themselves. *The Los Angeles Times* writes about a Chamber Music Society show, “Spalding embraced the instrument like a friend; her fingers danced up and down the neck with sure spontaneity. When her voice -- high and airy, with a touch of grain -- sprang out in scat or melisma, her hands conversed easily with her throat, each making space for the other.” Expect *Radio Music Society* shows to expand on that theatricality, taking the art form to new heights.

In addition to the Grammy Award, Spalding has been named “Rising Star - Acoustic Bass” in *DownBeat*’s Critic’s Poll, awarded Up and Coming Artist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association, and called one of *O Magazine*’s “Women on the Rise.” The subject of in-depth profiles in *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, and *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, as *Variety* says, Spalding is without a doubt “The ‘It’ Girl of Jazz.”



278 Main Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
T: 978.283.2883  
F: 978.283.2330  
imnworld.com

Artist Website:  
[esperanzaspalding.com](http://esperanzaspalding.com)

iMN Artist Page:  
[imnworld.com/esperanzaspalding](http://imnworld.com/esperanzaspalding)