



NOVEMBER 10

SATURDAY

8:00PM

VOCAL MASTERY

**KURT ELLING; NANCY KING
WITH STEVE CHRISTOFFERSON**

HERBST THEATRE

“A hard-swinging, head-tripping, scat-singing jazz poet.”

—CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON KURT ELLING

From Tony Bennett and Betty Carter to Bobby McFerrin and Cassandra Wilson the Festival has presented generations of jazz’s finest vocalists over its 25-year history. Tonight’s concert starring 2007’s *DownBeat* Critic’s Poll “Male Vocalist of the Year,” Kurt Elling, and master scatter Nancy King is a perfect addition to this vocal legacy.

The son of a church musician, Elling had started to work towards a Master’s degree in religion and philosophy but “was very unhappy in graduate school,” he said in a 1996 interview. “I was there out of a feeling of duty. For a while, I could not justify a purely musical life.”

A contract signed in the mid-’90s with Blue Note Records allowed Elling’s brand of jazz singing, vocalese, and poetry to flourish over the course of a half dozen albums. He began a second label life with Concord Records, which in April released *Nightmoves*, hailed by *;* as “the most playful album of his career.”

An Oregon native who first established herself as a jazz vocalist on the San Francisco scene of the early 1960s, Nancy King was schooled on the bandstands of venues such as the Jazz Workshop. She learned from legendary local musicians such as John Handy and the late Vince Guaraldi and studied formally with Jon Hendricks before hitting the road.

In 1978, she began collaborating with pianist Steve Christofferson, with whom she will perform in an intimate duo setting. In recent years, she has gigged and recorded with pianist and (fellow 25th Anniversary Festival artist) Fred Hersch and vocalist Karrin Allyson. As *allmusic.com* summarized her stature: “With the passing of Betty Carter, it is arguable that the mantle as preeminent bop and post bop vocalist should be draped across the shoulders of Portland, Oregon denizen Nancy King.”

KURT ELLING

Kurt Elling, vocals
Laurence Hobgood, piano
Robert Amster, bass
Kobie Watkins, drums

NANCY KING WITH STEVE CHRISTOFFERSON

Nancy King, vocals
Steve Christofferson, piano

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NOVEMBER 11

SUNDAY

3:00PM

PREMIERE: ‘TRADITIONS IN TRANSITION’

**JOHN SANTOS AND THE SFJAZZ
HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS**

PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE

“[Santos is] the Latin music renaissance man.”

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

John Santos’ roots in both the Bay Area music scene and with the San Francisco Jazz Festival are so firm that it wouldn’t be a proper 25th Anniversary without his participation. This year, Santos continues to make Festival history, debuting his major work, “Traditions in Transition” a suite that explores the past, present, and future of Afro-Latin Jazz, with the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars.

A Bay Area music veteran, Santos has made innovative use of traditional Afro-Latin forms and instruments. The San Francisco native took part in the first Festival (née *Jazz in the City*) in 1983 playing in Orquesta Batachanga, and bid farewell to his 21-year old Machete Ensemble to close out last year’s Festival. In addition to being a *conguero*, bandleader, composer, and head of his own Machete label, Santos has been an educator, writer, radio programmer, and record and event producer.

Composer, scholar, multi-instrumentalist, recording artist and longtime Santos collaborator John Calloway contributes his arranging talents to “Traditions in Transition.” Calloway teaches at San Francisco State University and in the San Francisco Unified School District along with work at the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Jazzcamp West.

The SFJAZZ High School All-Stars are the Bay Area’s finest student musicians chosen annually by competitive audition. Read more about the All-Star program on page 10-11.

JOHN SANTOS AND THE SFJAZZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS

John Santos, percussion and band leader

Michael Czaja, alto sax
John Palowitch, alto sax
Maxime Stinnett, tenor sax
Akeem Hawkins, tenor sax
Matthew Rosenthal, baritone sax
Ryland King, trumpet
Aaron Bahr, trumpet
Benjamin Kreitman, trumpet
Christopher Williams, trumpet
Baron Arnold, trombone

Natalie Cressman, trombone
Rachel Woods-Robinson, trombone
Jamie Dunkle, trombone
Lani Chan, flute
Danny Mertens, piano
Samora Pinderhughes, piano
Adam Nash, guitar
Eliana Athayde, bass
Jonathan Stein, bass
Colin McDaniel, drums
Alex Nash, drums
Nour Moussa, congas
Remi Spiro, congas
Christine Donaldson, vocals

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