



NOVEMBER 3

SATURDAY

8:00PM

VOCAL RISING STARS

**JACQUI NAYLOR; SPENCER DAY**

HERBST THEATRE

“Naylor is the new voice of jazz-pop.”

—VOGUE

“Day continues to gleefully defy categorization.”

—SF CHRONICLE

As a living art form, jazz stretches and morphs in unexpected directions. Tonight’s two headline artists, both based in the Bay Area, are leading the way in exploring the regions where vocal jazz meets popular music.

In addition to having an ease with the Great American Songbook and penning compelling originals, vocalist-songwriter Jacqui Naylor’s calling card is “acoustic smashing.” Inspired by “mash ups,” in which two or more recorded tracks are either interpolated or layered on top of one another to create a new musical entity, Naylor’s acoustic smashes pair the lyrics of a contemporary song with the melody of a jazz standard—or vice-versa.

When a fresh-faced and well-dressed young man sings “Lush Life” in a nightclub setting, eyebrows are sure to be raised. But when it is singer-songwriter Spencer Day singing Billy Strayhorn’s hymn of lament, those questionable looks are bound quickly to melt into nods of approval. For Day brings not only a respect for standards to the bandstand and recording studio but also a pathos-filled understanding of the sentiment that drives the lyrics.

A onetime contestant on the revamped version of *Star Search* and *SF Weekly*’s “Crooner of the Year,” Day brings over four dozen originals plus a keen understanding of the history of jazz and popular vocals to tonight’s concert. He released an independent EP and a CD and has worked with the eclectic Turtle Island String Quartet. As both an interpreter of timeless songs and an author new tunes, Day combines classic and cool with envious ease.

JACQUI NAYLOR

Jacqui Naylor, vocals  
 Art Khu, piano and electric guitar  
 Aaron Germain, bass  
 Josh Jones, drums  
 Michael Romanowski, acoustic guitar  
 Yoon Ki Chai, violin

SPENCER DAY

Spencer Day, vocals/piano  
 Scott Amendola, drums  
 Yair Evnine, guitar  
 Geoff Brennan, bass  
 Ben Yonas, organ  
 TBA, additional musicians



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NEW BRAZIL

**CÉU**

PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE

“CéU is the future of Brazilian Popular Music.”

—JORNAL DO BRASIL

In Portuguese, CéU means sky and this young Brazilian artist makes expansive, eclectic music that is most certainly a breath of fresh air. Born Maria do Céu Whitaker Poças, CéU has been hailed as “the future of Brazilian Popular Music” by *Journal do Brasil* and garnered a 2006 Latin Grammy nomination for “Best New Artist.”

Though still in her early twenties, CéU already has a broad range of musical experience. Her father, a well-known composer, arranger, and musicologist in the family’s home city, São Paulo, introduced her to Brazil’s classical and traditional music composers and encouraged CéU’s violão (a Brazilian guitar) and music theory studies. During a brief stint in New York, CéU fell under the spell of the hip-hop and jazz sounds of Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill, and Billie Holiday. She also ran into a distant cousin, Antonio Pinto, who, once CéU returned to Brazil, would become the co-producer of her eponymous debut album.

That same disc made an auspicious entrance in the U.S., as the first international album on Starbucks Hear Music Debut CD series. Rooted in bossa and samba rhythms and the new underground sound of São Paulo, the music makes elegant, sometimes daring use of hip-hop, jazz, and reggae rhythms, particularly on her cover of Bob Marley’s “Concrete Jungle.” “I think when you write a song it’s to sing in whatever place it’s sung in,” CéU said of her choice to tackle such a well-known song. “I think the song just has to fly, and music is from the universe, it’s not something that, oh, no, I won’t record that song because it’s Marley. I think Marley maybe would be happy to see a girl that loves his music and loves Jamaican music wants to sing his ‘Concrete Jungle.’”

CéU

CéU, vocals  
 Lucas Martins, guitar and bass  
 Sergio Machado, drums  
 Bruno Buarque, percussion  
 Guilherme, keyboards  
 DJ Marco, turntables and loops

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 Artists making their first Festival appearance.