



OCTOBER 21

SUNDAY

2:00PM

NEW SOUNDS OF CAPE VERDE

SARA TAVARES

FLORENCE GOULD THEATRE, LEGION OF HONOR

“Tavares’ voice is filled with sunshine and light.”

—LA TIMES

For years, the music of Cape Verde was a little-known pleasure in North American circles. A gorgeous mix of Portuguese, African, and Brazilian cultures, the music reflects the cultural heritage of this island nation off the west coast of Africa, a way station on 18th-century trading and slavery routes. The global success of Cesaria Evora—the grande dame of Cape Verdean music—gave the country widespread cultural influence. Now a new generation of musicians has built on Evora’s success, expanding the sonic range and subject matter of traditional Cape Verdean music.

Sara Tavares is a shining exemplar of the trend, a musician who “has the potential to become a breakout world music star” (*Los Angeles Times*). Born in Portugal to Cape Verdean parents, Tavares sings in *crioulo*, the language of Cape Verde, but her music reflects a more urban, contemporary mindset. At the age of 16, she won two Portuguese television music contests, but the singer-songwriter traded this early pop stardom for a style that draws on hip-hop, funk, and reggae, as well as traditional Cape Verdean styles.

The title of her most recent album (and U.S. debut), *Balancê*, reflects the challenge of juggling many influences. It was named to the *Los Angeles Times* “Best of 2006” list, and *The New York Times* praised Tavares’ ability to mix different genres on the album: “She never forces anything. Fusions that could easily turn out to be self-conscious and contrived turn out sounding supple and spontaneous instead.”

For Tavares, the mixing of styles reflects her personal feeling about growing up between Cape Verde and Lisbon. “[My music] is a lot about finding one’s self, and about freedom in yourself,” Tavares told the *Boston Herald*. “It’s about saying that each human being is unique in their own way, and beautiful in their own right. I’m celebrating that in my music.”

SARA TAVARES

Sara Tavares, vocals and acoustic guitar
 “Ndu” Fernando Carlos, drums, percussion, and vocals
 “Gogui” Fernando Embalo, bass and vocals
 “Boy Ge Mendes” Gerard Sequeira, guitar and vocals

1 Festival Debut.
 Artists making their first Festival appearance.



OCTOBER 21

SUNDAY

7:00PM

PIANO JAZZ LEGEND

AHMAD JAMAL

HERBST THEATRE

“The most exciting, creative keyboard artist living.”

—MELODY MAKER (UK)

Ahmad Jamal’s work has altered the concept of what a piano trio can be. With a canny use of dynamics, Jamal liberated the bass and drums from strict rhythm keeping, using the instruments instead as a composer might use an orchestra, wringing drama and contrast from every song. Miles Davis counted Jamal as a formative influence on his famous late-’60s quintet and noted jazz critic Stanley Crouch ranks Jamal among jazz masters like Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk.

It makes sense that such a forward-thinking player began his life as a musical prodigy. Jamal was playing piano by the age of three and joined the musician’s union at 14. “Music chose me. I didn’t choose it,” Jamal told *All About Jazz*. “When you start playing at three, you really haven’t made any choice.”

By the time he was in his 20s, the Pittsburgh native had moved to Chicago and recorded the revolutionary *Chamber Music of New Jazz* as well as the classic *Ahmad Jamal at the Pershing: But Not for Me*, which yielded the breakthrough hit “Poinciana.” An NEA Jazz Master, Jamal has recorded consistently throughout his career, enjoying regular bursts of acclaim as he has experimented with strings, large groups, and electric piano. On his most recent recording, *After Fajr*, “Jamal is just as dapper, graceful, musical, dramatic and sensitive to his surroundings as ever” (*Guardian*, UK). Or, as *Pop Matters* said: “The trio, with Idris Mohammed on drums and James Cammack on bass, purrs and roars. This has always been the band’s great strength -- an ability to be either big or little depending on what’s required by Mr. Jamal’s ingenious and alert arrangements.” Expect the same from this exceptional group at this reprise of their 2006 Festival performance.

SFLINKS@SFJAZZ

An afternoon performance by Ahmad Jamal is being presented by the San Francisco chapter of the The Links, Incorporated, a leading organization for African American women, in association with SFJAZZ. Information at sanfranciscolinks.org

AHMAD JAMAL
 Ahmad Jamal, piano
 James Cammack, bass
 Idris Muhammad, drums

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 Artists marking a Silver Anniversary return to the Festival.