



Courtesy photo  
Ani DiFranco, who has been called one of the most powerful feminist musicians of our century, will perform Friday, May 21.

## Poet/performer embraces struggle

Considered by many as one of the most powerful feminist music and poetry writer/performers of our generation, Ani DiFranco, will be performing next Friday on the EMU, East lawn's main stage.

Independent and vocal best describes this young folk singer from New York, who has slowly been making her way into the hearts and album collections of new fans throughout the country. DiFranco, 22, has already released three albums and developed a musical presence that both provokes and captivates audiences. Her songs are based on experience and convey strong, forceful messages.

She seems to have it all: a clipped, edgy guitar style, forceful melodies, stinging lyrics and an amazingly flexible and dynamic voice, which make it difficult not to be affected by her message. From

songs like "Gratitude" (from *Not So Soft*), which depicts a man pushing himself on a woman in return for a favor, to "Coming Up" (from *Imperfectly*) about corporate greed and urban blight, just about everyone can relate to something she says.

"I figure, what do I know better to write about than myself," said DiFranco, who has been living on her own, establishing her singular rules of independence since the age of 15. "I think of myself as three-dimensional and normal because of my experiences and so my music has me in it. Music is so close to who we are," she said.

DiFranco attended the New School For Social Research in New York, where she was confronted with a lot of social and feminist issues everyday.

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