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ROSE FUNG/Emerald  
UO Gospel Choir instructor and singer, professionally known as Julia D., will soon be producing a new album.

## Singer: Julia D. has existing fan base

Continued from Page 1

Besides looking for a record label, Alcalá will also shop management companies that will find opportunities for Julia to sing.

"I sing to a broad base of cross-campus people," Julia said. "That is the focus of my music — bringing people together to the joy of music."

Julia has performed the past two years at the Eugene Celebration and received a great response both times.

"We held a crowd for about an hour," Julia said of her 1996 performance. "It was a great joy to watch people connect with your music."

"Joy" is a common theme of Julia's.

"I feel great joy when I sing," Julia said. "I'm a different person when I sing. I'm transparent, but I evolve to some other place."

The trip to Eugene from Julia's birthplace of New Orleans has taken her through 26 countries. Her father, Reverend Joey Laird, established about 200 churches around

the world. Julia was tutored through school and graduated from high school at 15.

Julia attended the Berklee School of Music in Boston for two years. She then enrolled in the Juilliard Conservatory School of the Performing Arts in New York on a full scholarship.

"I studied mostly diversity of sacred music," Julia said. "Most of my music centered around the diversity of the black versus the white genre crossover — the affect of African-American music in our society."

This expertise, ethnomusicology, is not a highly demanded teaching subject. She could not find a job in the South, but in the fall of 1995, Julia was hired by the University School of Music.

"It's great," she said. "My area of expertise is finally appreciated."

She taught the University Gospel Choir. In 1995, her class size grew from 60 in the fall to 100 by the spring. By the spring of 1997, Julia was teaching 135 stu-

dents. She may be teaching as many as 200 during the coming school year.

Julia has several goals. "I hope to continue teaching here," she said. "I want to reach that crossover market and become successful nationally."

Julia would consider herself successful if she could lose herself in music and "forget what day it is."

On stage, she said, she changes. "It is a transcending process," the singer said. "I am not myself. I leave me. I really become a different person on stage."

Julia does not have any set concert dates in the Eugene area. Anthony said she may sing at the Eugene Celebration again this summer.

"I really believe that I have something to say," Julia said. "I've been through a lot with my music. I'm still going through quite a bit."

Alcalá will promise Thursday, when Julia signs the contract, to do its best to fulfill her dream.

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The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon. The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

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