



The Clackamas Print

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GRAMMY WINNER JAZZED BY CLACKAMAS INSTRUCTOR

By John Howard
The Clackamas Print

When Esperanza Spalding stepped on to the stage to accept her Grammy for "Best New Artist" in mid-February in Los Angeles, an important milestone was reached: Spalding became the first ever jazz musician to win the award and took the next step in her musical career as an upright bassist and vocalist.

Spalding's jazz story began in Portland, where she attended the Northwest Academy, a private school focused on the development of young artists and musicians. While at NWA, Spalding primarily played violin but also dabbled with guitar and piano and even considered picking up the trumpet. Brian Rose, who now teaches music technology courses at Clackamas Community College, was an instructor at NWA at the time and remembers Spalding's search for the instrument that suited her best.

"I wasn't about to let her be an 'I play everything' musician, primarily because so often these kind of players are rarely very good at any one instrument," said Rose. "I knew she just needed to find the right one. She wasn't all that crazy about playing the violin, but at some point she got her hands on that bass and that was it, she found her passion. ... She looked to me for help in playing the thing, so I showed her some basic stuff like the blues scale and rhythm changes."

With Spalding's newfound interest in the upright bass, an instrument much larger than she, Rose's role as an instructor grew.

"I was just killing time at the high school I went to where Brian was a music teacher, and I picked up the bass," said Spalding. "I'd find the pitches that I wanted, and Brian explained 'The first chord is this, and the second chord is this.' It all sounded terrible for sure, but by the seventh or eighth time around I was having an experience that was really meaningful. I was like 'Whoa, so we're just making this up, huh? This is something I really get!'"

From that point on, Spalding was hooked. She began to write her own music and perform around the Portland area, singing and playing the bass. Before long, people began to realize that Spalding's talent was real, and that she wanted more than to just be famous; she wanted to get her feelings and thoughts translated into notes.

"After 10 years of playing violin and feeling utterly incompetent, I was relieved to see that I could actually express something as a musician," said Spalding.

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Esperanza Spalding talks about her previous music teacher, Brian Rose, and her recent Grammy win at Portland State University.

LOVE IS IN ASG

By Erik Andersen
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Imagine finding out that President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were dating. What kind of impact do you think that would have?

That's what seems to be the situation here at Clackamas Community College, except it's not Obama and Biden but Alyssa Fava, president of Associated Student Government, and Brian Briare, vice president.

If familiar with the circumstances

behind the quiet election of Briare to the position of VP, it might be easy to come to the conclusion that there may be some conflict of interest. Briare was elected into office by a panel of five ASG members - including Fava - shortly before the winter break, when Babs McCambridge stepped down due to stresses of the job.

Fava said that she is in a relationship with Briare. She went on to say that there is no law set in place in ASG that forbids members from seeing each other romantically outside the office.

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STUDENT ONE-ACTS
AND COMEDY TAKE
CENTER STAGE

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