

## Show Set for Engaging Duet

Jazz vocalist-composer Chris McNulty and New York guitar virtuoso Paul Bollenback will perform in concert Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m. at Jimmy Mak's, 300 N.W. 10th Ave.

McNulty and Bollenback are known for redefining the territory between musician

and singer. They explore the art of jazz with emotionally engaging duets, re-workings of classic standards, bop, funk R & B, ballads and originals.

McNulty combines a rich, expressive voice with a deep sense of swing, a natural feel for the blues and an impressive ability to improvise.

Bollenback is one of the leading lights of contemporary jazz guitar today. He's sophisticated, funky and sometimes surprising, but always soulful.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Reservations can be made by calling 503-295-6542.

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Singer-composer Chris McNulty (left) and guitarist Paul Bollenback will perform Friday, April 27 at Jimmy Mak's.



## From Backup to 'Idol' Favorite Spotlight shines on soulful singer

(AP)--Melinda Doolittle is used to singing in the shadows. But the humble backup singer from the Nashville suburbs had better get used to the spotlight — she's the favorite to become the next "American Idol."

In a season that's served up a mostly bland group of contestants, Doolittle stands out thanks to her soulful covers of classics by Donna Summer and Aretha Franklin. Viewers and "Idol" watchers love her — and so does the prediction market Intrade.com, which lets people wager real money on future events, such as the Academy Awards or presidential elections.

Intrade says pretty conclusively that Doolittle is going to win, although Lakisha Jones, Blake Lewis and Jordin Sparks are still in the picture.

The sweet-natured Doolittle, 29, has seemed gracious and flattered by all the praise.



Melinda Doolittle stands out on "American Idol" thanks to her soulful covers of classics by Donna Summer and Aretha Franklin.

Doolittle attended the music program at Belmont University in Nashville, which country stars like Brad Paisley, Trisha Yearwood and Lee Ann Womack have attended.

She was one of the best students in the program, and since graduating in 1999 has come back to judge school music competitions, said Jeff Kirk, director of events administra-

tion and coordinator of commercial music at Belmont.

Gospel artist Martha Munizzi, for whom Doolittle sang backup last year, said Doolittle has performed with a range of artists like CeCe Winans and Aaron Neville. She says Doolittle was in high demand as a backup singer before she made it on "American Idol."

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