

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Obama Likes Rap, Rock and Classical

Candidate's iPod playlist shows variety

(AP) -- Bob Dylan. Yo-Yo Ma. Sheryl Crow. Jay-Z. These aren't musical acts in a summer concert series: They're artists featured on Barack Obama's iPod.

"I have pretty eclectic tastes," the Democratic presidential contender said in an interview published in the current issue of Rolling Stone.

Growing up in the '70s, Obama said, he listened to the Rolling Stones, Elton John and Earth, Wind & Fire. Stevie Wonder is his musical hero from the era. The Stones' "Gimme Shelter" tops his favorites from the band.

The Illinois senator's playlist contains these musicians, along with about 30 songs from Dylan and the singer's "Blood on the Tracks" album. Jazz legends Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Charlie



Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., on the July 10 cover of Rolling Stone Magazine.

Parker are also in the mix.

"Actually, one of my favorites during the political season is 'Maggie's Farm,'" Obama said of one of Dylan's tracks. "It speaks to me as I listen to some of the political rhetoric."

In the song, Dylan sings about trying to be himself, "but everybody wants you to be just like them."

Several musicians on Obama's iPod support his bid for the White House, including Bruce Springsteen. Earlier this month, Dylan told a British newspaper that he believes Obama is redefining politics in the United States and could deliver change to a nation in upheaval.

"I've got to say, having both Dylan and Bruce Springsteen say kind words about you is pretty remarkable," Obama said. "Those guys are icons."

Obama said he hasn't met Springsteen, but the two have talked over the phone.

"Not only do I love Bruce's music, but I just love him as a person," Obama said. "He is a guy who has

never lost track of his roots, who knows who he is, who has never put on a front."

And did he address him as the Boss?

"You've got to," the candidate said.

Asked what he thought of rap, Obama said the genre has broken down barriers within the music world, though he's concerned about his daughters — Malia, 9, and Sasha, 7 — listening to it.

"I am troubled sometimes by the misogyny and materialism of a lot of rap lyrics," he said, "but I think the genius of the art form has shifted the culture and helped to desegregate music."

He said hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and rappers Jay-Z and Ludacris were "great talents and great businessmen."

"It would be nice if I could have my daughters listen to their music without me worrying that they were getting bad images of themselves," he added.

Obama appears on the cover of the magazine, which endorsed him for president in March.



Ernestine Anderson

Jazz Vocalist Faces Foreclosure

(AP) -- Jazz vocalist Ernestine Anderson is facing foreclosure on her home in Seattle in yet another sign that the mortgage loan crisis is hitting traditional working-class neighborhoods hard.

Anderson, who once sang with the likes of Quincy Jones and Ray Charles, is more than \$30,000 in arrears in payments and penalties, public records show.

Friends and family have started a last-ditch effort to save her Central District home by pleading for donations. They hope to raise \$45,000 for the 79-year-old to cover the back payments and taxes.

James Kelly, president of the Urban League of Seattle, said counselors will try to find out how Anderson got a loan that now asks for a monthly payment of \$5,000. Gayton said Anderson's monthly income is \$1,000 from Social Security, and at her age, her performances are limited.

"She never should have gotten that loan," Gayton said. "It's a difficult issue for her. The house is her mom's and father's home, since 1946."

Will Smith stars as 'Hancock'

Oscar nominee Will Smith is bringing another blockbuster release to theaters this summer as the superhero "Hancock," in a July 2 release.

Hancock is edgy, conflicted, sarcastic and misunderstood, and his well-intentioned heroics might get the job done and save countless lives, but always seem to leave jaw-dropping damage in their wake. As grateful as they are to have their local hero, the good citizens of Los Angeles are wondering what they ever did to deserve this guy.

Hancock isn't the kind of superhero who cares what other people think—until the day that



he saves the life of PR executive Ray Embrey (Jason Bateman), and the sardonic superhero begins to realize that he may have a vulnerable side after all. Facing that will be Hancock's greatest challenge yet—and a task that may prove impossible as Ray's wife, Mary (Charlize Theron), who insists that he's a lost cause.

In a July 2 release, "Hancock" isn't the kind of superhero who cares what other people think, until now.

Cultural Center Funds Restored

Financial support for the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center has been restored with approval of a new city budget.

The Portland City Council adopted a revised budget earlier this month that includes \$80,000 for the IFCC.

The multi-disciplinary arts center at 5340 N. Interstate

Ave. is celebrating 25 years of awakening cultural awareness by creating an environment for artists and audiences to explore, honor and celebrate diversity.

City support for the non-profit center was in jeopardy after an earlier budget proposal by Mayor Tom Potter.

Sparks on Life One Year after American Idol:

Young star almost lost her voice

One year after Jordin Sparks was crowned the 2007 "American Idol" champion, the 18-year-old singing sensation is taking the music industry by storm.

From landing her second spot on a major national tour alongside Alicia Keys and performing the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLII to winning Outstanding New Artist by the NAACP Image Awards, the thrilled newcomer is taking her "Idol" success to an astonishing new level.

The young star, whose hit single No Air topped the Billboard Pop charts, opens up to Jet magazine in its current issue

about her recent vocal cord hemorrhage that could have ended her career.

"That was one of the scariest feelings I've ever felt," Sparks recalls. She also discusses the latest Internet gossip that she was recently married to her "alleged" boyfriend, singer/model Steph Jones. "I'm only 18-years-old. I'm not getting married for a while," she said.



Jordin Sparks is crowned the 2007 American Idol champion.

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