



# The



# Black History Month

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## Best New Artist Spalding impresses music world with Grammy

BY CLIFF PFENNING  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The popular music culture expanded significantly when Esperanza Spalding, a home grown Portland musician won the Grammy for Best New Artist Sunday in Los Angeles.

Spalding, a jazz bassist, won the award over heavy favorite Justin Bieber, who has quickly become part of popular culture due

to his own success within popular music.

Spalding, 26, has performed for President Barack Obama and even taught at the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, but is a virtual unknown among the general public due to her lack of radio airplay and trendy public appearances.

"I certainly did not expect to even be considered for that type of nomination," Spalding posted on her web site Monday.

"My being a little old jazz musician and everything."

Spalding is the first jazz artist to win the Grammy award for Best New Artist. She thanked all of her friends in Portland during her acceptance speech in the nationally televised ceremony. She also performed during the show.

Spalding is scheduled to return to the Rose City and perform before a sold-out crowd at the Newmark Theater on Friday,

includes vocals and skill with the violin, oboe, clarinet, upright bass and bass guitar. She's been active as an artist for the past 10 years.

Her third album, released independently in August, is Chamber Music Society.

Spalding was born into a single-parent household in Portland in 1984. She credits cellist Yo Yo Ma for inspiring her to learn the

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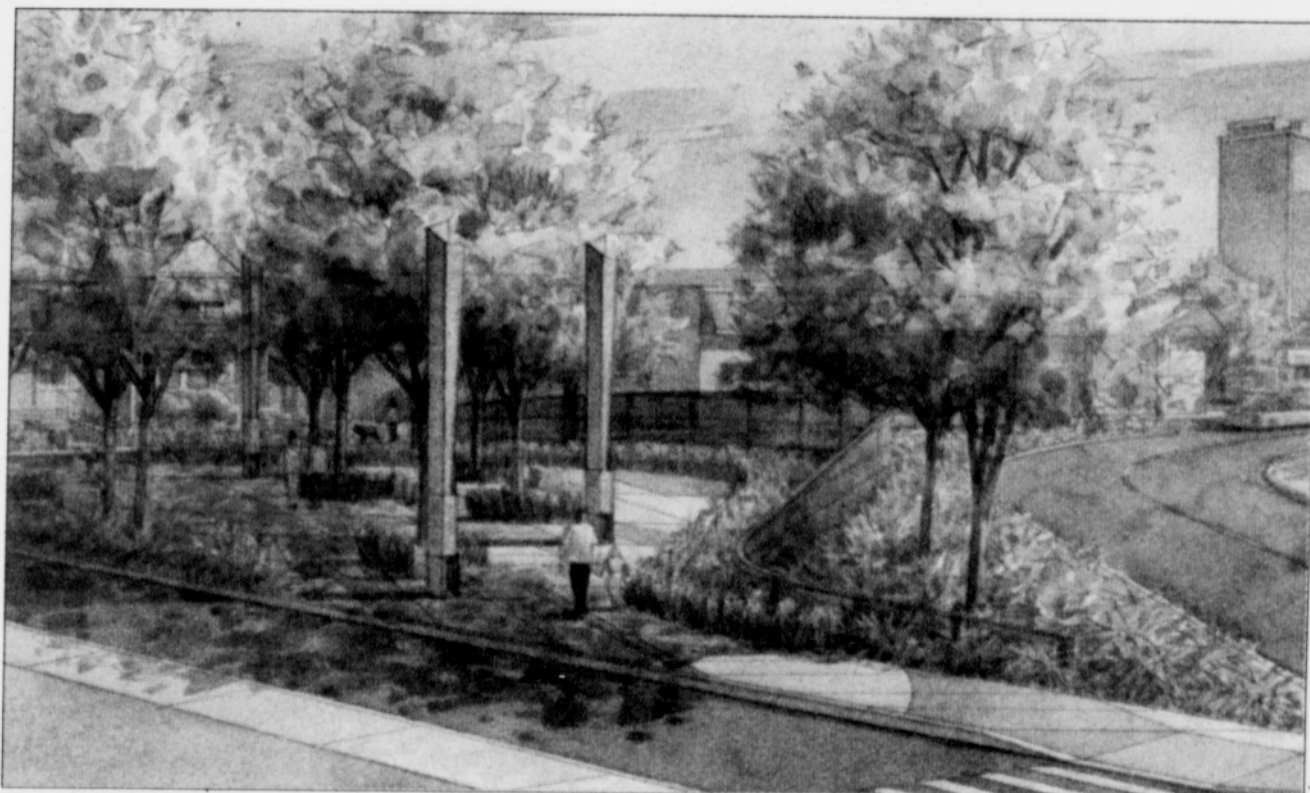


*Esperanza Spalding thanked her friends in Portland, along with her mother as well as her teachers, during her acceptance speech for Best New Artist at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards Sunday in Los Angeles.*

Feb. 25, one day after teaching a one-day Masters class at Portland State University.

Spalding, who grew up in northeast Portland and attended King Elementary as a child, attended PSU for a year before moving to Boston to study and perform.

Along with her stylish Afro, she has earned a reputation for her depth of musical talent, which in-



*A small triangle park is one of a series of heritage markers that will memorialize the diverse neighborhoods, past and present, along Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. An artist's rendering from the Portland Development Commission gives a perspective on what one of the memorials will look like on southbound MLK just north of Broadway.*

## Proud Diversity Etched in Stone

### Construction to begin on heritage markers

BY LEE PERLMAN  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The pride of some of north and northeast Portland's most diverse neighborhoods and histories is being etched in stone, literally, on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Construction will begin this spring on the Portland Development Commission's Heritage Marker project.

A large traffic island on Northeast

Grand Avenue at Hancock Street, the point at which MLK becomes a two-way street, will be transformed into a gateway into the area. The main feature will be four stone markers, each square in shape and 20 feet high. On each of the 16 faces of the markers will be text about the history of the area covering six themes: community, civil rights, commerce, culture, migration and immigration.

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