

Music: Sound Menu

EXCERPTS: NOVEMBER TO SEPTEMBER 2001

99X BIGGER DAY OUT -- The relentless barrage of radio spots touts this event as something akin to the Second Coming. Beyond the hype, however, are some worthy participants: Jimmy Eat World, Tricky, Dave Navarro and the re-united Living Colour and rising locals Rehab and Sevendust. These acts will perhaps ameliorate the more pedestrian choices (Lit, 311, Tantric, among others) that predominate a lineup as tight as the 99X playlist itself. No matter -- the hordes will lap it up regardless. **Hi-Fi Buys Amphitheatre** (Madigan)

PATRICIA BARBER -- There has been ample pleasure in recent years in discovering a fresh crop of female jazz singers -- Cassandra Wilson, Diana Krall and the like. Patricia Barber fits right in, with the smoky vocals, lively and off-beat piano-playing and a melancholy aura. Festooned with awards and praise, Barber comes out swinging, cool and seductive. **Sambuca Jazz Cafe** (Madigan)

CHELY WRIGHT -- This country crooner spends so much time touring, she claims to have "diesel fuel in [her] veins." Wright's commercial appeal and gorgeous looks should not distract from her real talent. There's not much vapid sentiment from this songbird. Her new album *Never Love You Enough* covers familiar territory with fresh insight and intelligence. This alone should guarantee some longevity, which is usually denied more by-the-numbers Nashville products. **Cowboys** (Madigan)

SUM 41, UNWRITTEN LAW -- Amidst the sea of young punkish bands clawing for recognition, Sum 41 stands out for its lack of pretentiousness. The songs are short and loud. Hooks and riffs abound. "Non-stop ass-whupin' rock," they call it. Life is one big party for these guys. Presenting another side of the Blink-182-wannabe spectrum, Unwritten Law takes itself much more seriously. Favorite topics are genocide, suicide and loneliness. The band's second release, *Elva*, is due out in January. **Masquerade** (Madigan)

EVELYN GLENNIE, ASO -- While Glennie has been completely deaf since adolescence, you won't find a more commanding percussionist. Mesmerizing live, she claims to "feel" the sound through vibrations from her vast assortment of instruments. Accompanied by the ASO, with conductor emeritus Yoel Levi returning, the program features music by Berlioz, Schwanter and Shostakovich. **Symphony Hall** (Madigan)

2 SKINNEE J'S -- This New Jersey gang spews out vitriol with monotonous regularity. A tiresome hybrid of rap and metal, the J's propagate a troublesome message with an askew moral compass that some people still find endearing. Untroubled by a complete lack of original ideas, the boys revel in empty machismo, attempting to convince its diminishing public that they possess a streetwise toughness. **Masquerade** (Madigan) 10.31.01

VIRGINIA RODRIGUES -- Brazil's answer to Cesaria Evora makes a welcome appearance in support of *Nos*, her second Hannibal release. Her interpretations of folk spirituals are subdued, melancholic and magnificent. A former beautician and singer in church choirs, Rodrigues was encouraged to pursue a career by Caetano Veloso, who has guided her ever since. **Spivey Hall** (Madigan)