

AU NATUREL

SCHATZI'S DESIGN GALLERY & DAY SPA, LLC

PERSONAL AND SALON UPDATES

A Salute to Spring

Spring is a new beginning--a time of rebirth and a celebration of life. The Earth says "Happy Birthday." And the leaves say "Thank you." This year, I've been fascinated at just how colorful the trees are at the start of spring. I don't typically notice the color contrasts between newly sprouting trees; but, the majesty of the sight is as joyous as the autumn leaves. How am I only just seeing it in my 49th year! What other tidbits of eye ecstasy have I missed up until now, but which dance all around me in a silent symphony. I pray to hear the sounds of the ages and to decipher code which is visible only to insight.

Life is good. Starting in the month of April, two sisters are

moving upstairs in the salon to launch their own massage therapy, facial and beauty care services. The massage therapist is exceptional. She provided a service for me a few months back, and I was in heaven. I'll provide more updates on their services portfolio as I have more information to share.

For this month's newsletter, I don't have a lot of words of praise or inspiration to share that are uniquely my own. So, I seek primarily to share with you those unexpected joys which have inspired me since our last sojourn. Is it any surprise that this joy is grounded in prose and lyric? This issue is purely a gift of music. I hope you enjoy.

VOCAL MASTERY'S CHANGING OF THE GUARD

With a Bit of Blues and Jazz History

Move over Mariah Carey, Minnie Riperton has come back to reclaim her throne! Her name is Elha Nympha-a

Phillipino born beauty who at 12 years old has already thrown down the gauntlet and said "[watch me fly](#)." Did her mother

KNOWLEDGE BECKONS...

Towards the end of last year, a sister called me and said that she met me at an expo about 3 years prior. Her husband did a symptometry reading for me. I recalled the reading but not the sister. All the same, she wanted to re-start her locks and wanted me to do the honors. So, she drove in from Winston-Salem and we got down to the business at hand. We spoke as freely as if we'd known each other for years. And towards the middle of the session, I expressed my interest in traveling to Egypt. I had already researched a reasonably priced tour package that would cruise up the Nile River while stopping at timeless monuments along the way. She said, "Well, if you're going to Egypt, you have to go with Anthony Browder." I did my research, and so, I am. Lord willing, this summer will find me sojourning on the Nile Valley and cruising towards Upper Egypt for a glimpse into the past and the present and the future. I've not historically been one with a great fascination with Egypt; but, I started an unfinished novel in 1994 with the backdrop in Sudan (Meroe). So, I'm eager to see and learn. If you've ever wanted to know more about this part of African history, check out [this video link](#).

know that she was naming her daughter after a jazz/blues legend? I seriously doubt it. But, this girl has staked her claim to a vocal legacy. And I don't make this claim lightly. Singing is one of my secret hobbies. (So much for the secret!) It's one of the things I do while driving alone in the car. I practice. What am I practicing for? Who knows? Maybe I want to serenade St. Peter when he meets me at the Pearly Gates. That's about all I could be preppin' for. I'm cool with that. While a college student in Charlottesville, VA, I used to love to drive home for school breaks. I would sing all the way home! I played two 90 minute cassettes with songstresses like Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and a few others that I can't quite recall. By the time I input a third 90 minute cassette and it played fully on one side, I was typically pulling into my mother's driveway. The old-school legends were my favorite leg of the journey. That was when I realized that I am a lover of the blues. But, Ella, who is my favorite old-school songstress is more a jazz singer. She sounds a lot like [Doris Day](#); but, she's more of a virtuoso than Doris. And since Ella preceded Doris, I'll let you decide who was zoomin' who! [Here's the song that made me hit the rewind button](#) more

times than any other in that collection. This is where I practiced scat singing--a style that I love yet which evades me to this day!

Ella was preceded by [Ma Rainey](#) and [Bessie Smith](#) but of the three was the purest jazz vocalist in my opinion. [Her style is a definite bridge between blues and the big band era.](#) That's why she's primarily a jazz vocalist. Billie was straight blues. I love Billie Holiday; but, her vocal range was not stellar. But [listen to her pre-1950s recordings to fully appreciate the purity of her voice quality.](#) In her later years, sister was tired. For me personally, some of her 50s recordings take blues to a cellular level that is difficult for me to hear without feeling the pain. It is for this reason that some of these recordings are most coveted by aficionados. As for Ella, there have been none like her since.

In later years, the classic sound of blues and jazz morphed with the times. [Nancy Wilson](#) is a blues legend with a grace and longevity uniquely her own--who managed to stay in the background of life, for most of her life. My Mom was a fan, so I grew up listening to her. [The sister defines aging gracefully.](#) When I think of my latter years, she's who I aspire to be! [She herself paid homage to Ella Fitzgerald in an](#)

[80s tribute with Al Jarreau--one of the great scat singers of all times--only to be eclipsed when the queen graced the stage herself!](#) Then, the pace and pitch picked up a bit. Minnie Riperton was a woman that many have heard of; but few fully appreciate the unmatched beauty of her vocal range. [This is the song that everyone knows.](#) Is she not effortless in her delivery! Then, [she practically broke the pitch barrier](#) with this arrangement. You'd practically have to be a dog to hear it fully.

When artists like Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston graced the stage, virtuosity and power were pre-requisite to a successful career. They both had both! Singers like these are why I sing strictly for enjoyment. ☺

Maybe Ella has come back with a new twist. Or maybe Elha is just a unique God creation of her own with a power and virtuosity at age 12 that can only elevate her into a class all her own. [Check out her American debut!](#) Ms. Nympha, teach your daughter to scat and she will fly your whole family straight to the moon. God, help her stay grounded. The road ahead of her has many snares and pitfalls. Amen.

POETICALLY SPEAKING...

A Love Song: Make love to me my love

Make love to me my love.

Before the dawn breaks and the
task master's whip cracks across
our backs,

Or the morning dew drops rise to
greet the sun as gaseous particles
of perfection.

Make love to me my love.

While the night creatures dare to
greet the stage in the shadow of
the crescent moon,

Eyeing her spread over the
horizon with anticipation and
sadness.

Make love to me my love.

As my skin bathes in the sentient
warmth of this Egyptian cocoon,

And I long to taste the sweetness
of Nirvana's earthly bounty.

Make love to me my love.

With the fragrant caress of your
hand, I will transform into the true
essence of beingness

Becoming re-connected with the
beauty of all of Creation, as
ordained by your passion.

Make love to me my love.

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Embrace the beauty of you.

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