



## Esperanza Spalding, 25

**Distinction:** The Austin-based multilingual bass player has recorded two albums, *Junjo* and *Esperanza*, and has a new one out this August. President Obama picked her to play at his Nobel Peace Prize ceremony.

**How'd you get into music?** I became interested when I was 4, after seeing classical cellist Yo-Yo Ma on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. Within a year, I started playing violin with the Chamber Music Society of Oregon.

**How did you choose the bass?** I was introduced to it in high school, and it was love at first touch. After a teacher opened my eyes to improvisation and the blues, I was hooked.

**Which musicians do you aspire to be like?** I admire musicians who stretch their limits, like Stevie Wonder, Wayne Shorter, André 3000, Minnie Riperton, and Joni Mitchell. But I want to create my own path.

**What one person do you admire most?** One of my heroes is Henry David Thoreau. He identified the things that upset him about society and found a way to live by his values.

**How do you indulge yourself?** Sleeping. Just being lazy. Watching Woody Allen movies for eight hours and drinking beer and doing absolutely nothing.

**If your house were on fire, what one thing would you save?** My acoustic bass, which is a couple hundred years old. It's beautiful.

**DESIGNER: SUSAN WOO** Top (\$295) and skirt (\$335). **In the beginning:** Woo studied fashion design and business at Cornell before working at Louis Vuitton, Derek Lam, and Chanel. **Known for:** Combining eco-friendly fabrics and practices with high fashion. **The next...** Stella McCartney. **Famous fans:** Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis.