



New torch for flammers -

Eight inches of classic divas, all in one day. If you stack 'em up, the number of new diva CDs coming out on November 8 alone would make any size queen orgasmic. After a dozen-year wait, legendary freak **Kate Bush** will release not just one, but a two-CD set called *Aerial*. Its first single is "King of the Mountain." **Diana Ross'** bluesy duet with **Ray Charles**, "Big Bad Love," is finally being released on the over-produced EZ Rock-formatted *Charles CD Genius and Friends*. Miss Ross, who has been touring almost non-stop since her drunk-driving drama a couple of years back, will also see her classic films *Lady Sings the Blues* and *Mahogany* released on DVD on November 8, and rumour has it she's currently in the studio recording a new album of love songs. The **Eurythmics** have reunited for the first time in five years to record two brand-new songs, cashing in on yet another retrospective *Ultimate Collection*, which is also coming November 8. **Melissa Etheridge's** *Greatest Hits* will include new songs, like her dazzling cover of **Janis Joplin's** "Piece of My Heart" and a standout makeover of **Tom Petty's** "Refugee." Since going public with her fight against breast cancer, Etheridge has been racking up accolades, including being named as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People.

📷 Story Images:

Click thumbnails for full-size image:



Another diva finally getting her due – within our own community – is **Cyndi Lauper**, who's putting out a raw, stripped-down CD with some versions of her old hits, including a duet with **Kelly Osbourne** on the anthem "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." It sounds like a perfect pairing. On October 1, Lauper receives an award for her dedication to gay and lesbian causes from the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC. Past award recipients have included **Steven Spielberg** and **Bill Clinton**.

Local singer **Serafin** releases his third album, *2am* at the Torch Café, next week. He has an outstanding five-octave vocal range that gave this writer goosebumps. His stripped-down jazz CD, produced by Jaymz Bee, showcases his very strong and clear voice. He's a true talent. He told fab that his inspiration for turning to jazz from rock was a gig at the Senator jazz club three years ago with **Queer As Folk's** **Thea Gill**. "Thea and I are old friends and in fact we did our first musical together. Her voice is a counterpoint to mine as it's a very rich and husky alto." The CD includes pop hits from the last 20 years, including "Here Comes the Rain Again," "The Crying Game" and an eight-minute version of **R.E.M.'s** "Everybody Hurts." "I felt that there wasn't a lot of torch songs for gay men done in the last two or three decades and considering all we've been through, I wanted songs that gay men could resonate with." Upcoming projects include a CD of remixes as well as *My Name Is Not Barbra*, featuring covers of rare **Streisand** songs.