

August 2, 2023
For Immediate Release

SPELLING Presents New Single, “Hard To Please (Reprise),”

From New Album, *SPELLING & the Mystery School*, Out 8/25 on Sacred Bones

Announcing Sun Ra Arkestra, Laraaji, SASAMI, and More To Play SPELLING & Atlas Obscura’s Through The Looking Glass Festival on 9/16 at Children’s Fairyland In Oakland



(Photo Credit: Sarah Eiseman)

“‘Cherry’ transforms ‘Choke Cherry Horse’ from 2017’s ‘Pantheon of Me’ into a more polished and spacious place, and ‘Under The Sun’ (originally heard on 2019’s ‘Mazy Fly’) moves its disco from the bedroom into the parlor, thanks to a lavish string section.” — *The FADER*

“That big sound really suits her voice. I feel like I’m listening to a number from a musical [...] some, like, imagined weird musical on Mars...” — *NPR Music’s All Songs Considered*, on “Under The Sun”

"...really exciting to...hear this older material redone in an interesting way." — *The Needle Drop*

"'Cherry' is minimalistic and eerie, evocative of the mystical traditions she invokes in the album's title. 'Under the Sun' is pianistic and drama-laden, the juxtaposition between the two a fitting reminder of SPELLLING's artistic breadth." — *Paste*

Today, **SPELLLING** (aka **Chrystia Cabral**) presents her **new single/video**, "**Hard To Please (Reprise)**," from her forthcoming album, **SPELLLING & the Mystery School**, out **August 25th** on **Sacred Bones**. Following double lead single "**Cherry**"/"**Under The Sun**" — which "prove[s] she hasn't lost her haunted appeal" (*Uproxx*) — "Hard To Please (Reprise)" continues unveiling the self-produced reimagination of *SPELLLING & the Mystery School* to thrilling effect. On "Hard To Please (Reprise)," Cabral's captivating vocals take center stage, elevated by a lush bed of ethereal instrumentation and supporting background vocals. "*I love to love, but my baby loves to fly*," she repeats as percussion builds, exploding into a gorgeous string section that carries the track to an otherworldly finish.

Alongside "Hard To Please (Reprise)," Cabral is thrilled to unveil the lineup for **Through the Looking Glass Festival** — a special event curated by SPELLLING, **Atlas Obscura**, and Sacred Bones — on **September 16th at Children's Fairyland**, a historical children's amusement park in Oakland that Cabral's own mother used to frequent as a child. Alongside SPELLLING, performers include **Sun Ra Arkestra**, **Laraaji**, **SASAMI**, **Molly Lewis**, **Fat Tony (DJ set)**, **Nailah Hunter**, **AroMa**, **Zachary James Watkins**, and **Tarot by Botánica Cimarrón**. Tickets are [on-sale now](#).

[Listen to "Hard To Please \(Reprise\)"](#)

[Purchase Tickets to Through the Looking Glass Festival](#)

SPELLLING & the Mystery School is a collection of richly envisioned new versions of songs from throughout Cabral's critically-acclaimed discography. Recorded with her touring band (est. 2021), these reimaged studio tracks follow Cabral's spellbinding career — from her 2017 breakthrough debut ***Pantheon Of Me***, to 2018's multidimensional synth-based project ***Mazy Fly***, and her expansive third album, 2021's ***The Turning Wheel*** — breathing new life into the extravagant orchestrations she's written and produced entirely herself.

Throughout *SPELLLING & the Mystery School*, Cabral's hypnotizing voice is enveloped in a newly fleshed-out sonic universe of dreamy strings (**Del Sol Quartet** and **Divya Farias**), haunting piano (**Jaren Feeley**), driving trip-hop percussion (**Patrick Shelley**), bass (**Giulio Xavier Cetto**), shredding electric guitar (**Wyatt Overson**), and drama-intensifying background vocals (**Toya Willock** and **Dharma Moon-Hunter**). These brilliant studio recordings are equal parts punky and fastidious, as Cabral wanted to emphasize rich and earthy natural sounds emitting from each player and their instrument. The textural quality of these tracks, mixed

with the futuristic underpinnings of her lyrics and the darkly whimsical nature of her songs, create a completely new immersive listening experience.

[Pre-order **SPELLING & the Mystery School**](#)

SPELLING Live:

Sat. Sep. 16 - Oakland, CA @ Children's Fairyland (Through The Looking Glass Festival)

Sat. Oct. 7 - Los Angeles, CA @ South Pasadena Masonic Lodge

Sun. Oct 15 - Philadelphia, PA @ Underground Arts

Tues. Oct 17 - Brooklyn, NY @ Elsewhere Hall

Wed. Oct 18 - Baltimore, MD @ OttoBar

Praise for SPELLING & *The Turning Wheel*:

“Cabral brings pop formalism and the questing spirit of '70s soul orchestration into SPELLING's world, making a majestic entry into her sharpest album yet” — *Pitchfork*, The 100 Best Songs of 2021

“[*The Turning Wheel*] is joyfully fantastical, deeply personal and resolutely political. The truth gleams through its wild tales” — *NPR*, The Best Music of 2021

“The production is immaculate, if not literally perfect” — *The Needle Drop*, Top 50 Albums of 2021

“[*The Turning Wheel*] maintains the darkness, the allure, and Cabral's experimental touch, yet she has turned up the pop quotient significantly here.” — *Stereogum*

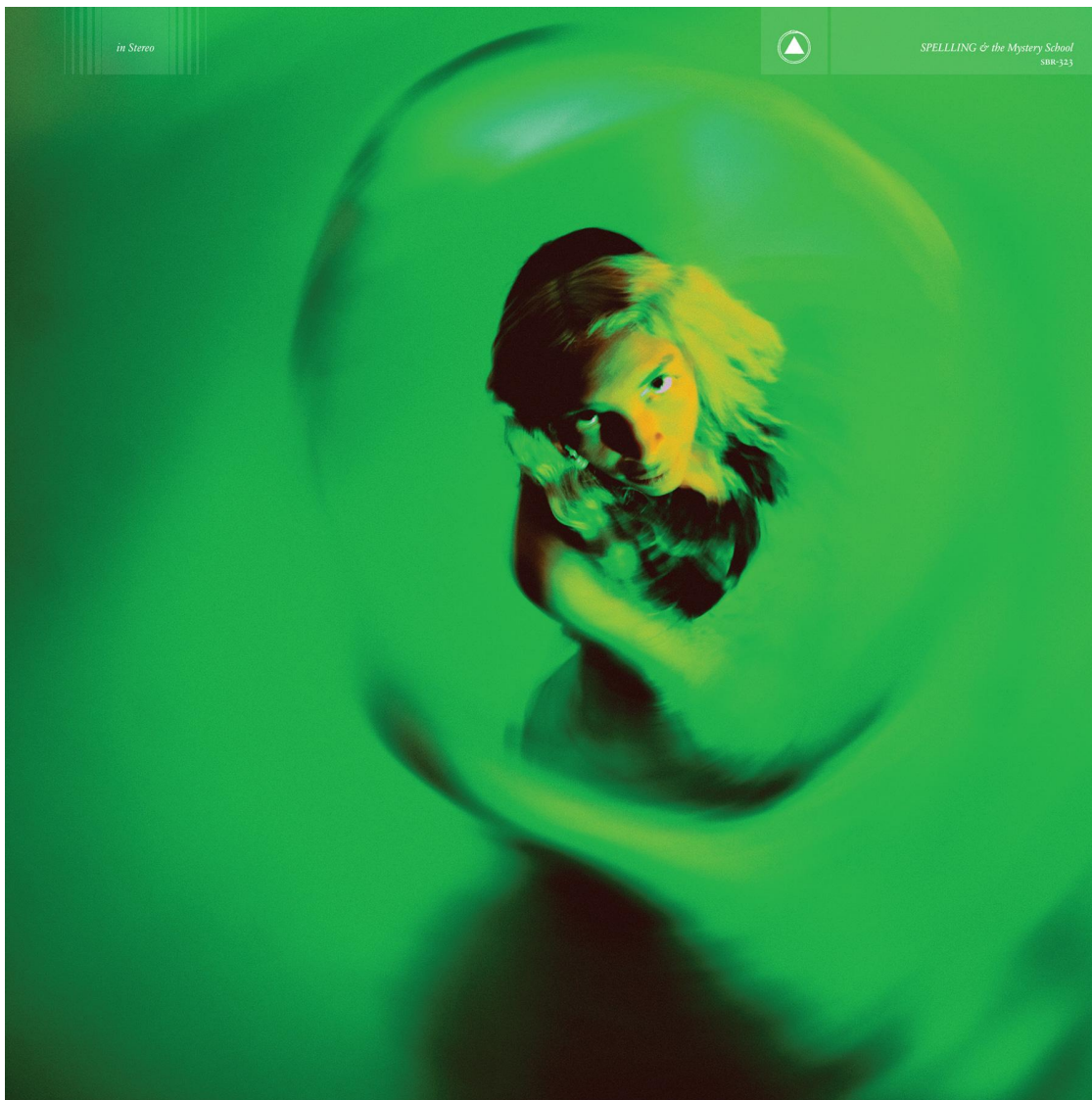
“...a 12-track collection of theatrical fantasy and sweeping orchestral arrangements, paired with urgent modern messaging...” — *NYLON*

“As an Afro-Futurist imagining, Tia Cabral's third album offers escape for the self-styled freaks on the fringes, in particular the tarot-card readers, and science fiction geeks.”
— *Under The Radar*, Top 100 Albums of 2021

“Tia Cabral is the type of storyteller we need more of—defiantly wide-eyed with fantastical aspirations.” — *FLOOD*, The Best Albums of 2021 (So Far)

“Cabral's always harbored the capacity to craft something Bigger. Here it comes into full bloom”
— *Treble*, The 50 Best Albums of 2021

[Download cover art & hi-res images of SPELLING](#)



(SPELLING & the Mystery School Cover Artwork)

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