

# A musical legacy

*Faye Carol and her daughter, Kito Gamble, bring family tradition, blues and jazz to their performance at San Francisco's Afro Solo Festival*

**By Paul Sterman**  
STAFF WRITER

**T**ALK to singer Faye Carol and her piano-playing daughter, Kito Gamble, and the word "tradition" pops up time and again.

Through their impassioned interpretations of jazz and blues standards, the Berkeley pair aims to honor a cultural legacy — the music created by African-American musicians of yesteryear — and to honor a family tradition.

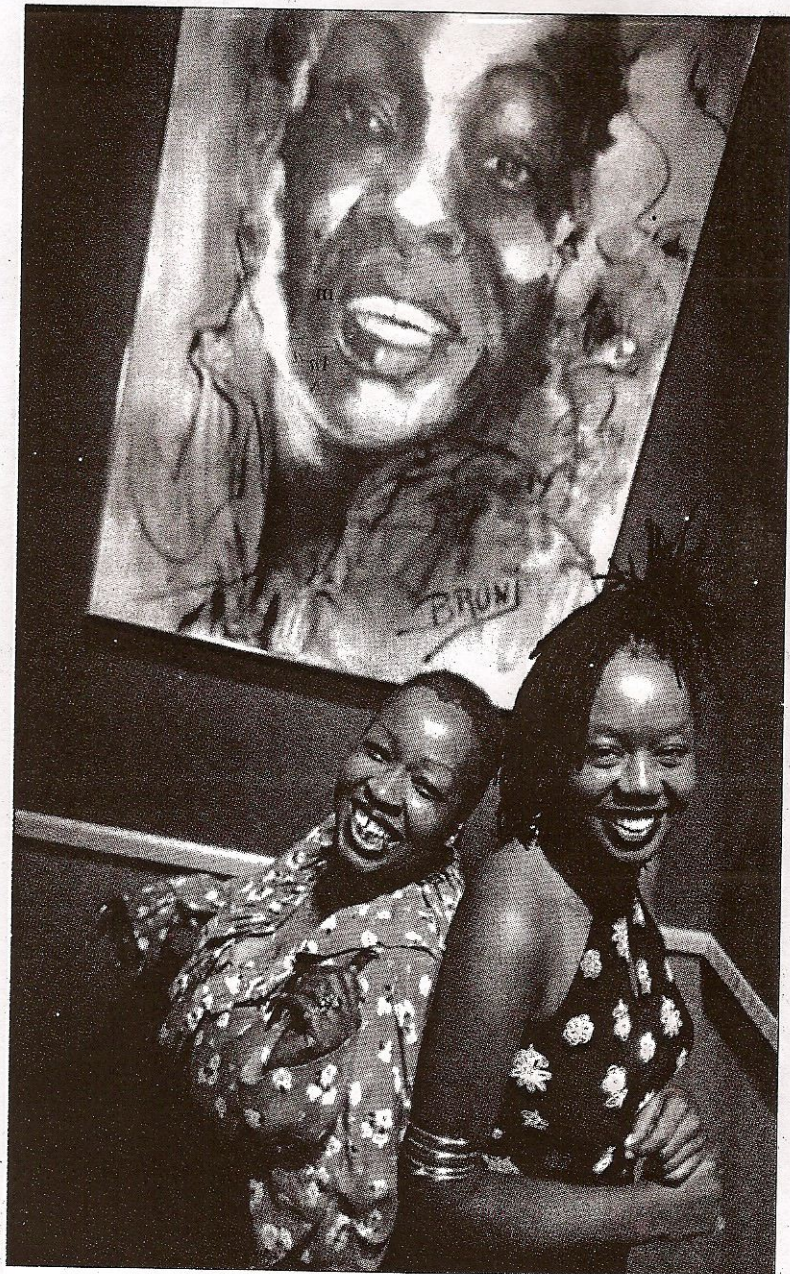
James Gamble, Faye's husband and Kito's father, was a towering influence on both women. A musician, teacher and music historian who taught at the University of California, Berkeley, among other places, Gamble encouraged Carol to pursue a singing career 30 years ago, and he taught his daughter to play piano, beginning lessons when she was 3.

Now mother and daughter are a highly acclaimed musical team, who will perform Saturday as part of San Francisco's Afro Solo Festival, a showcase of African American theater, storytelling, dance and music. James Gamble died last year, shortly before Carol and her daughter completed their 1996 CD "The Flow," but they continue to fulfill his musical vision.

"My father meant so much to both of us," said Kito Gamble, who with her mother co-wrote a song on the album that pays tribute to James Gamble, "Bay Bay (Ode to Jim)." "My father was all music, and (my mother and I) are so much products of him — of his teaching. It feels really good to have that kind of bond, and we had that bond."

In its first-ever musical concert in Afro Solo's four-year history (the festival typically focuses on solo theater and dance performances), Carol and her daughter will open for venerable bluesman — and Berkeley neighbor — Charles Brown. The festival, which opens Thursday and runs through Sunday, features an array of solo performance works by black artists.

Carol's voice first caught the attention of Bay Area audiences back in the '60s. After winning a talent contest at the Oakland Auditorium in 1965, she began singing with local R&B bands and then migrated to the San Francisco cabaret scene. The ver-



MARY F. CALVERT — Staff

**Jazz singer Faye Carol (left) and her daughter, Kito Gamble, sit under a painting of Carol that graces the wall at Yoshi's in Oakland.**

mother at the tender age of 10, she later received formal training at UC Berkeley's Young Musicians Program and took part in Berkeley High School's prestigious jazz ensemble,

Kito Gamble Trio — and drummer Billy Higgins — performs on "The Flow," which features two original instrumental tunes by Gamble. The pianist has been lauded by critics for her