



You might call Herbie Hancock's new cd "Possibilities" his "Supernatural Genius Loves Company." It's impossible to ignore the similarities between Hancock's collaborations with rock artists on this new cd and the highly successful projects of the same type done by Santana and the late Ray Charles. "Possibilities" uses different artists than the other two and that artist selection is what sets it apart from the more average collaborative efforts and elevates it to the level that Santana and Charles reached with their projects.

Hancock is one of the most well known keyboardists in the jazz world and explains the cd this way, "I am always interested in going beyond the comfort zone, going beyond the expected, going outside the box. I think that's where new concepts are created." Carlos Santana appears on one of the album's highlights, "Safiatou". It's a salsa flavored Spanish language tune with Carlos' trademark guitar licks and soaring vocals from Angelique Kidjo, while Hancock adds an intense acoustic piano jam at the end. John Mayer's vocals on "Stitched Up" kicks off the cd with a funky groove. Paul Simon and Sting perform rearranged versions of their own songs "I Do It For Your Love" and "Sister Moon". Annie Lennox sings a Paula Cole song "Hush Hush Hush" and the two teenage prodigies Joss Stone and Jonny Lang join together for U-2's "When Loves Comes To Town." Hancock's subtle acoustic piano anchor all the performances but never overwhelm the star studded lineup.

It's no coincidence that the cd is being released in conjunction with Starbucks, these are all ultra hip neo jazz-rock performances best heard while relaxing with your favorite coffee concoction or wine and cheese combination. That's not to downplay the artistic merit of them, however. Hancock has won ten Grammy awards and the "Possibilities" look good for an eleventh.