Spring Fashion Report

Hippy Chic Rings In Spring

(NAPSA)—"Hippy chic." It's a phrase you'll be hearing a lot this spring. From fashion runways to movie premieres, the look—Platinum jewelry done up in flower and tree-shaped pendants, tassel necklaces, and nature-inspired charms—has already been spotted on such fashionistas as Gwen Stefani, Penelope Cruz, Justin Timberlake and Jay-Z.

"Nature motifs from flora to fauna are hot this spring," says jewelry and fashion expert Michael O'Connor, who's also a TV commentator. "And the best metal for settings and the organic new designs is Platinum. Its enduring quality, pure and natural white color and density mean that it will hold gemstones securely, and makes it the ideal medium for creating delicate keepsake pieces." O'Connor suggests the following Platinum trends:

• Necklaces—Few things are more naturally beautiful than pure white Platinum necklaces. Whether they're incorporating pearls and diamond beads into the tassel or just weaving Platinum into tiny strands, designers including Stephen Russell, Christian Tse and Cathy Carmendy are embracing the new look.

• Pendants and Charms— Nature inspired snowflake, butterfly, flower and tree-shaped pendants and charms are all the rage. Cathy Waterman and Peter Norman & Co. designed Platinum pieces that move beyond the traditional floral designs for a fresh look.

• **Dress Clips**—Sheila Goldfinger and Neil Lane provide Platinum nature-inspired, dress clips that can be a glamorous way to alter the neckline or sleeves of a dress shirt or evening gown. From simple Platinum and diamond designs to bolder signature pieces with bright-colored gems, these accessories can change the look of most any ensemble.



Sign of spring—Hippy chic Platinum shines. Inset: Platinum, pearl and diamond Tassel necklace from Stephen Russell.

• Platinum, Onyx and Coral— The hottest spring combo is Platinum mixed with onyx or coral. The unique gems create a striking look in bracelets, earings or necklaces. Barbara Berk and Suna Bros. embrace the mixed material trend with one-of-a-kind whimsical masterpieces, using ribbons and strands of pearls. Similarly, designers Erica Courtney and Jeannette Fossas mix materials, vibrant spiral chains and intricate designs to create some of the season's hottest pieces.

• Men's Watches and Bracelets—Designers including Scott Kay, Herco and Chris Aire are dazzling men with bold Platinum and diamond link bracelets and oversized watches. Chris Aire's watch faces are adorned in diamonds and precious gems, while A.Lange & Sohne offers solid brushed or matte Platinum faces.

• Spring Fling To The Real Thing—Tacori, Martin Flyer and Kirk Kara design intricately embellished and hand-carved engagement rings.

To learn more about Platinum jewelry and to see the latest designs for spring, visit the Web site www.preciousplatinum.com.