



For Immediate Release

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**WORLD MUSIC PRESENTS CAPE VERDE'S  
LURA**

**Saturday, December 9, 8pm, Berklee Performance Center**

**BOSTON, MA – WORLD MUSIC** presents Cape Verde's Lura on Saturday, December 9, 8pm at Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston. Tickets are \$37, \$32 and \$28. For tickets and information call World Music (617) 876-4275 or buy online at [www.WorldMusic.org](http://www.WorldMusic.org).

Born and raised in Lisbon, Portugal, where a large Cape Verdean émigré community resides, Lura sings with a sultry, honeyed voice. Part of a new generation of Cape Verdean artists rediscovering the music of their ancestral homeland, Lura draws on both an improvised upbeat rhythm called *batuku* and the *funana* dance and music style to create her infectious, contemporary sound.

Inspired by the styles of Santiago, the most "African" of the Cape Verdean islands and the one from which her father came, Lura's sound is sensual and sexy, yet respectful of Cape Verde's daily struggles and triumphs. The *batuku* originated as a rhythm created by a dozen or more women beating on folded stacks of cloth (called *tchabeta*) held by their knee, while a lead singer improvised poetry lampooning or critiquing community happening. A very sensual dance called *tomo* accompanied the song form. The *funana* is an accordion-driven music and dance in which the rhythm takes center stage. Until Cape Verde gained its independence in 1975, most of these musical forms were prohibited by the church and colonial government because they were considered too erotic.

At the age of 17, Lura was a dancer in Lisbon when she was approached by Juka, an African zouk musician from São Tome and Principe, who asked her appear on his newest album. Originally asked to sing backing vocals, she instead performed a duet and discovered the potential of her voice, with its deep timbre and sensual inflections. Lura burst onto the music scene in 1996 with the release of her debut album, *Nha Vida (My Life)* (Harmonia Mundi), a dance album featuring zouk and Cape Verdean Creole-style R&B. The song "Nha Vida" was chosen for the Portuguese compilation *Ond Sonora Red Hot*, which included many of the great Portuguese-speaking artists including Marisa Monte, Caetano Veloso, Djavan, Bonga and more. Her second album, *In Love* (Harmonia Mundi/Lusafrica), followed in 2002, again featuring the sounds of R&B and zouk, the latest craze among Cape Verdean youth.

Lura has toured worldwide, including a 2003 appearance at the Women of Cape Verde show in the UK and performances at the prestigious Palais Des Congrès during the 39<sup>th</sup> Midem World's Music Market in Cannes, France. She also performed at the appearance at the World Conference on Cabo Verde in Washington, DC in April 2005 and Womad festival in July 2005.

Lura's most recent CD/DVD, *Di Korpu Ku Alma (Of Body and Soul)* was originally released in 2004 and re-released as a CD/DVD on Escondida Music in May 2005. Featuring original songs, the CD also includes *batuku* compositions by the late unheralded songwriter Orlando Pantera backed by a mainly acoustic band featuring guitar, piano, violin and accordion. The DVD features a video of a live concert at Paris' Grand Rex, where Lura opened for Cesaria Evora as well as two music videos and a photo slideshow.

**High-resolution digital photos can be downloaded at [http://www.worldmusic.org/press\\_listevents.php](http://www.worldmusic.org/press_listevents.php)**

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