

For Immediate Release

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WORLD MUSIC PRESENTS CAPE VERDE'S

LURA

Sunday, October 12, 8pm, Berklee Performance Center

“Gently crooning lullabies one moment, exulting in buoyant dance rhythms the next, Lura made plain why listeners around the world consider her heir to Cesaria Évora.”—Chicago Tribune

BOSTON, MA – World Music presents Cape Verde's Lura on Sunday, October 12, 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.

Lura is a captivating performer steeped in traditional Cape Verdean styles but also influenced by a vast range of international pop sounds. With a sultry, honeyed voice, Lura and her tight six-piece band draw on many Cape Verdean rhythms—*mazurka*, *coladeira*, *batuku*, *funaná* and *morna*—to create an infectious, contemporary sound.

Born and raised in Lisbon, Portugal, where a large Cape Verdean émigré community resides, Lura is part of a new generation of artists rediscovering the music of their ancestral homeland. Inspired by the styles of Santiago, the most “African” of the Cape Verdean islands and the one from which her father came, Lura brings to her music a street-wise, urban sensuality infused with the rhythms of Africa. Riding on the tide of Cape Verde's rediscovery of its African roots, she mixes the familiar *morna* style with the little-known rhythms. The African musical traditions of Cape Verde are still emerging now after the nation first gained independence in 1975. Prior to that, the Church and the colonial government prohibited certain forms of musical expression. The accordion-driven *funaná*, which Lura performs, was considered too erotic. 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 happenings. A very sensual dance called *tomo* accompanies the song form.

Lura was a dancer in Lisbon at age 17, when she was approached by Juka, an African *zouk* musician from São Tomé and Príncipe, who asked her to 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 released her international debut album, *Di Korpu ku Alma (Of Body and Soul)* on the Escondida/Lusafrica label in May 2005. She was awarded *Best Newcomer* at the BBC Radio 3 Awards and *Best World Music Album* at Les Victoires de la Musique in France. In 2006, Lura released *M'Bem di Fora* which loosely means, “I come from the country” or “I come from far away.” The latest release continues to bring cool global influences to bear on indigenous rhythms. Lura seamlessly borrows influences as diverse as R & B, tango and *tropicalia* and combines them effortlessly with her smoky alto voice.

To download high resolution digital photos go to www.WorldMusic.org and click “PRESS CENTER”.

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