

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS



Mariza

Friday, October 21, 2005, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall

Tonight's performance will be announced from the stage.

*This performance is made possible, in part, by the generous support of the members of the
Cal Performances Producers Circle and Friends of Cal Performances.*

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Mariza is a Mozambican whose soul was forged in the old Mouraria district of Lisbon. It was there that she first heard *fado* singers, lots of them—so many that their names and faces have merged into the mist of memory; but these “reminiscences live on in my singing,” she says. Hence the tributes to Fernando Maurício, Carlos do Carmo and Amália Rodrigues in *Transparente*, her latest release, come as no surprise. She has always been involved in *fado*, even when she was experimenting with other rhythmic forms, the distance from Lisbon perhaps making *fado* stronger than ever for her.

The titles of her albums are always revealing, evident from the start with her first release in 2001. Triple platinum in Portugal, the album thrust her on to the international scene in recognition of her talent, and she was given an enthusiastic welcome on the stages of various countries. Mariza sees the stage as her “living-room where she entertains her friends” and audiences have felt this warmth. As early as 2002, at the Quebec Summer Festival she received the First Award for Most Outstanding Performance. She performed in New York’s Central Park, the legendary Hollywood Bowl, the WOMAD Festival, and sold out at the Belém Cultural Centre in Lisbon and the Purcell Room on London’s South Bank.

The same year, after conquering British audiences with her performance on Jools Holland’s legendary television show (as well as being distinguished by inclusion in the commemorative DVD), Mariza was considered by BBC Radio 3 the Best European World Music artist.

At the time her second album, *Fado Curvo* (Curved Fado) was launched, German critics once again awarded her the Deutsche Schallplatten Kritik Award. The album reached No. 6 on the Billboard Chart of World Music. And in Portugal, besides critical acclaim, it achieved double platinum.

Mariza has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the Belém Cultural Centre in Lisbon and the Théâtre de La Ville in Paris. Foreign journalists in Portugal recognized her for “excellence in the spreading of Portuguese culture, in its most characteristic manifestation: the *fado*” and voted her Personality of the Year 2003.

In 2004, the year in which she launched her first DVD, she was also recognized at MIDEM, where she received the European Border Breakers Award. She went on to participate in Unity, the official album of the Olympic Games, on which she sang the number “A Thousand Years” with Sting.

In 2005, before the release of *Transparente*, she was chosen by the Kingdom of Denmark as one of the international ambassadors of the work and the spirit of Hans Christian Andersen. She was chosen both for her fame in Portugal and abroad, but also because the *fado*, rather like the work of Hans Christian Andersen, has a poetic melancholy that makes its appeal universal.

Mariza wants to feel “free to sing—the voice that I have is stubborn.” It has within it a yearning which is constantly seeking its own *fado*.

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Contact Ellen Felker, 510/548-0725
ellenf@Lmi.net