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Brazilian Jazz Vocalist Fernanda Cunha Returns to Canada

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Written by
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Latin jazz concerts, Canada



Fernanda Cunha

Jazz Vocalist Tours on the Heels of Latest CD Release

Brazilian jazz vocalist Fernanda Cunha appears in concert at Edmonton's Yardbird Suite on Friday, January 30, with fellow Brazilians, Ricardo Rito (piano) and Ze Carlos (guitar), and Edmonton's Mike Lent (bass) and Sandro Dominelli (drums). Cunha, who has performed in Canada several times over the past few years and makes her return to the Yardbird for the first time since 2005, is also slated to record with the cross-border blend of musicians.

Born into a musical family, Fernanda's mother is the renowned Brazilian singer Telma Costa, and her aunts renowned composers Sueli and Lisieux Costa. Following in these footsteps, Fernanda began her career as a singer in 1997, performing clubs in Rio de Janeiro with a trio.

Well established on today's Brazilian jazz scene, Fernanda made her US debut in 2000, performing in Cleveland, Ohio, with guitarist Michael Manderen (Director of Oberlin Conservatory). She also met American based ensemble Grupo Brasil, with Kip Reed (bass), Gary Aprile (guitar) and Matt Perko (drums), with whom she appeared at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Blossom Summer Festival, Shaker Jazz Fest, Nighttown, and other major venues.

Cunha recorded her debut solo album *O Tempo e o Lugar* in 2002, featuring Brazilian pianist Marcio Hallack's arrangements and her American compatriots, Grupo Brasil. The album, released in Brazil, featured traditional Brazilian Samba and Bossa Nova feels and songs such as Djavan's *Muito Obrigado*, *Velas Icadas* (Ivan Lins, Vitor Martin) and *Tim Tim Por Tim Tim* (Haroldo Barbarosa).

Jazz Elements is the brainchild of
Cindy McLeod, Canadian jazz vocalist,
writer and festival producer.

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**CD Release Event
Pat Hatherly
Songwriter's Dream
Sunday, April 26**

In January, 2004, Fernanda released her tribute to two important figures in Brazilian composition, classic Bossa Nova master Johnny Alf, and her aunt, pop songwriter-singer Sueli Costa, both of whom make appearances on *Dois Corações* (Two Hearts). The album features arrangements and performances by pianist Cristóvão Bastos, João Carlos Coutinho (piano, accordion), Camilia Dias (piano) and Jorjão Carvalho (bass), along with Jurim Moreira (drums), Zé Carlos (acoustic guitar) and Marcelo Martins (sax) among others.

Fernanda first performed in Canada in 2005, appearing at the Yardbird Suite in Edmonton and Beat Niq in Calgary with pianist Ricardo Rito. She returned in 2007 to perform at the Edmonton and Vancouver jazz festivals. In 2008, she returns to Canada in support of her latest album, *Zíngaro* (2007) featuring guitar player Ze Carlos and the songs of Antonio Carlos Jobim and Chico Buarque. This summer her Canadian fans can see her performing at Toronto's Lula Lounge) and a return engagement at the Vancouver International Jazz festival, where she's invited Cuban-Canadian guitarist Celso Machado to be her special guest.

for more info visit www.fernandacunha.com.br

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