

CATARINA DOS SANTOS

Singer, songwriter, and sound artist Catarina dos Santos is an accomplished artist, with an international career, and expansive mindset. Her cultural roots combine Africa, Portugal and Brazil, and her life in New York as an artist became the driving force for her artistry as a musician and composer. Lisbon is the city where she starts her career as a jazz singer. Her passion for jazz takes her to New York, in 2003, to study Jazz Performance at The City College of New York, and Orchestration at The Juilliard School. She also is part of the Juilliard School Choral Union. In 2005 Catarina is invited to be the lead singer and songwriter for the band Nation Beat, that brought her to work a fusion of North Eastern Brazilian Maracatu and New Orleans Second Line. She records „Maracatuuniversal” (Recife, 2006) and tours NE Brazil and the U.S. , playing at renowned venues such as The Blue Note, Joes Pub, The Stone (John Zorn), Sob’s, etc. In a city filled with multiple music genres, Catarina works with greats from the Latin Jazz scene, such as Montego Joe, the flutist/pianist from Irakere (Cuba) Oriente Lopez, or John Benitez.

New York’s multicultural landscape serves as fertile ground for her writing and inspires her singing. She created a new sound that has its first outcome in her first album, *No Balanço do Mar*, released in 2009 at Pregones Theatre: a music created from Catarina’s experience as a musician in New York, mainly in the Latin Jazz and Brazilian music scene, infused with her cultural background of Portuguese and African music. While mastering this mix of sounds, she composes and co-produces the show *The Mermaid’s Feet*, with her long time collaborator Raquel Z. Rivera, sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. Catarina’s research also takes her to be an invited lecturer at ASWAD Conference, at Rutgers University (Pittsburgh, 2011).

In 2013 Catarina is soloist and ensemble member for the performance of Mary Lou Williams’s „Mass For Peace” (musical direction – Deanna Witkowski), where she shares the stage with New York’s finest jazz singers, such as Leena Conquest. In 2014 she travels to New Orleans to perform at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, as lead singer of the Brazilian band Forroteria.

She completed a Masters Degree in Composition at Goldsmiths University, in London. She wrote the music for *The Power Behind the Crone* (February 2017), a theatre piece performed by Alison Skilbeck and directed by Tim Hardy. She is currently collaborating with British composer Matt Kirk - their credits include sound design and composition for *Untitled*, a choreography by Gianna Burreight, that premiered at Resolutions Festival this February, in London. Composed the music for „I am Orestes and I am Elektra too”, by To Be Creatives (premiered at the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival). In 2018 he creates, co-produces with Marcy DePina, and is an artist in “Spirits of Resistance - Women, Music and the Drum”, an exchange project between female composers / percussionists, carried out in March 2018, at the Bronx Music and Heritage Center in New York. In 2019 she plays at the Stowe Jazz Festival with the quintet Catarina dos Santos/Ebinho Cardoso.

Catarina is the creator of three creative worlds that go hand-in-hand: two original music projects that, one in her own name, with a more acoustic sound and a direct connection with Angolan, Cape Verdean, Portuguese and Brazilian music; MadNomad, her Jazz/Electronica project, connected to Jazz and Spoken Word; and the Jazz trio Catarina Jow Pitomba, that released their debut album, “Mais Cores”, in March 2020, where her vast experience with Brazilian Jazz gains body and balance. MadNomad will be releasing their first album in September 2020. She is recently working on a new project, in collaboration with Luati González, percussionist, drummer and composer from Andalucia, Spain, and Julian Tarragó, pianist, accordionist and composer from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil – together they create a new sound based on the musical connections between the Iberian Peninsula and Brazil (particularly the rich cultural heritage of the Gaucho traditions in Rio Grande do Sul and Argentina).

Catarina currently teaches at New Music School at Fabrica do Braço de Prata, Barreiro Jazz School, World Music Program at ESTAL University, all in Lisbon, Portugal. She taught at the Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts, Young Audiences New York, Third Street Music School, and at Teachers College, Columbia University, all in New York, U.S.A..