

Guitarist Romero Lubambo and vocalist Luciana Souza



Brazilian Jazz

The latest in a noble tradition of seductive Brazilian chanteuses, **Luciana Souza**'s voice has that elusive richness, that piquant flavor that can instantly transport you to thoughts of warmer climes and sun-drenched verandas. She is a master of that particular Latin phrasing, lazy and luxuriant – the audio equivalent of watching a cat waking and stretching from a nap in a sunny windowsill. Hearing her, you can't help but feel a bit more worldly and sophisticated.

One reason for that could be her impeccable taste in lyricists. Her 2004 album *Neruda* set the poems of Pablo Neruda to music, just as she had done with an earlier album of songs based on the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop.

Born into a family of musicians, Souza began her recording career at age 3 with a radio commercial. By the age of 16, she had recorded more than 200 jingles and soundtracks. Leaving her homeland, Souza went to Boston where she earned a bachelor's in jazz composition from Berklee College of Music and a master's from the New England Conservatory. Her six albums since her 1999 debut have earned her three Grammy nominations.

For her Eugene concert, Souza is joined by classical and jazz guitarist **Romero Lubambo**. A graduate of the Villa-Lobos

School of Music in Rio, Lubambo arrived in New York City in 1985 where he experimented with combining Brazilian music with American jazz. He joined forces with fellow Brazilians Duduka da Fonseca and Nilson Matta, recording under the name Trio da Paz. Lubambo has also established himself as a solo composer who has collaborated with dozens of jazz and classical artists ranging from Dianne Reeves and Harry Belafonte to Yo-Yo Ma and Kathleen Battle.

Luciana Souza & Romero Lubambo play at 7:30 pm Thursday, April 6 at the Jaqua Concert Hall. \$32/\$28/\$24. – *John Ginn*

Musical Forecast: Subtle, Fog and Jel

Subtle, Jel, Doseone, Themselves, 13 + God, cLOUDDEAD. It's not some cryptic military code, just names for bands and musicians who have formed a tight network, making music that defies labels and expectations. **Jel**, a premier drum machine manipulator, and **Doseone**, a whipsmart, non-linear thinker with a rapper's ear for melody, first collaborated in 1998. **Subtle**



Subtle

is Jel and Doseone, plus three others, including Dax Pierson. In 2005 the band was involved in a disastrous car accident that left Pierson quadriplegic. Pierson will join the band on stage on this tour, which finds the crew returning in support of their 2004 CD/DVD *Wishingbone*. That release contains "all of our reworks and some new music, so it's reapproaches to songs on [2004's] *A New White* plus other songs that sort of flesh out the ideas on that," Doseone explained. The DVD is a collaboration with the animation team SSSR. None of the animators or musicians spoke the same language, so they communicated through drawings and storyboards. (View an excerpt at www.warprecords.com/fko)

The band has spent the past year hard at work on new material, which helped them deal with the emotional hardships they all faced after the accident. I recently caught up with Doseone at his home in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he welcomed a phone interview to take a break

from finishing the new *Subtle* record, for *hero: for fool*, set for a summer release. "The new record has been everything for us," he said. "A *New White* carries over into this; they're sort of sequels to one another." Doseone travels to California to collaborate with the other members of Subtle. Pierson, back in the Bay Area after recuperating elsewhere, helped out on this record too. "We got him singing and playing harmonica and beatboxing on the record, and it's sounding great," Doseone said. Find out more about Dax Pierson and his recovery efforts at www.daxpierson.com

Subtle, Jel and Fog play at 9 pm Saturday, April 8 at the WOW Hall. \$10. – *Vanessa Salvia*

Luca's Back at Sam Bond's

Nick Luca is one of those complete package deals. A well-traveled studio musician, he is also a sound engineer at Wavelab Studio in Tucson, Ariz., where he has been involved with the creation of many of the finest indie albums of the last 10 years. In the studio, he's worked with Calexico, Richard Buckner, Giant Sand and Evan Dando as well as many others.

As a touring and studio musician he's got your back singing, or playing guitar, piano, organ, harmonica, vibes, accordion, mandolin or synthesizer. He and his band, **Luca**, have toured the U.S. and Europe with Calexico, John Doe, Robyn Hitchcock, PJ Harvey and Neko Case.

His music has been described as moody and evocative, mixing rock, jazz and soul for a mellow, haunting sound, a bit spacey but not so far out as to go floating off unmoored.

Taking the lead on guitars, keyboards and vocals, Nick is accompanied by Chris Giambelluca on bass and vocals and Paul Ellis on drums. The group is touring heavily in the Northwest in support of their 2005 CD *You Win Again*, a follow up to 2004's *Little Town*. Having hit Eugene once already on April 5 with a gig at Cosmic Pizza, the trio returns to Sam Bond's Garage where they may be trying out new material from their upcoming album *Sick of Love*, due out this summer. Featuring a much harder rock sound, the CD includes guest performers from Calexico and Giant Sand as well as Tony Furtado.

Luca plays at 9 pm Sunday, April 9 at Sam Bond's Garage. \$5. – *John Ginn*



Nick Luca

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