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## Yuko Ito Makes Waves With Mania de Voce

Up one level



- Genre: Jazz - Smooth
- Personnel:

Yuko Ito – vocals, Itaiguara Brandao – bass guitar, Oriente Lopez – Fender Rhodes and flute, Cicinho Teixeira – piano, Mauricio Zottarelli – drums, Café – percussion, Davi Vieira – percussion, and Aaron Heick – saxophone

- Tracks:
- Berimbau, Corcovado, Ela e Carioca/Smile, Garota de Ipanema, Magamalabares, Mania de Voce, Dindi, Qui Nem Jilo, Flor de Lis, Aqua de Beber

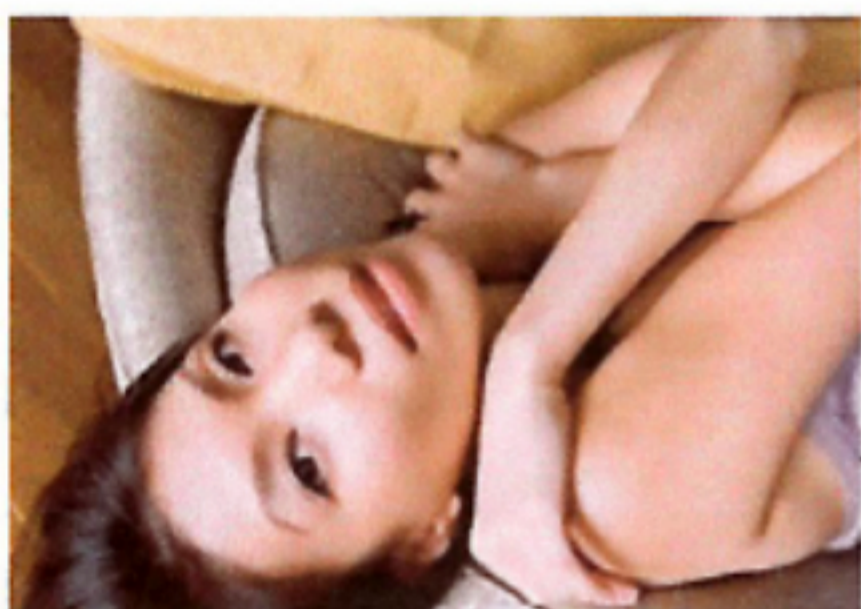
A native of Tokyo, Japan, singer-songwriter Yuko Ito delivers an ambient enriched bossa nova repertoire on her latest recording *Mania de Voce* from Funny Baby Face Records. Gifted with a voice that moves like sunlight piercing through rain clouds, Ito displays a soothing register reminiscent of Charmaine Clamor with the creamy resonance of Rosa Passos. Ito and her band retool a selection of classic Brazilian jazz tunes written by such luminaries as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Djavan, Luiz Gonzaga, Rita Lee, Carlinhos Brown, and Baden Powell. Her singing allows the songs to transcend the temporal world and fill up with a weightless propulsion that translates into inner bliss. Ito describes her songs as “They just make your heart smile,” an accurate depiction of her album.

Accompanying Ito on the recording are the fluttering rivulets of Aaron Heick’s saxophone on the opening track “Berimbau” looped around the samba strut of percussionists Café and Davi Vieira. Oriente Lopez’s flute plumps up “Corcovado” while moving in harmony with the soft ripples of Cidinho Teixeira’s piano keys as the elegantly brushed strokes of bassist Itaiguara Brandao provides a plush bedding for Lopez’s delicately strewn silhouettes. Ito preserves the dreamy quality of Jobim’s “Garota de Ipanema” and interprets Brown’s “Magamalabares” with a hint of Hawaiian flavored pop. The island beating in “Magamalabares” is enchanting while the twinkling Latin accents sprinkled across the title track are quilted in Lopez’s Brazilian toned keyboards and the milky grooves of Mauricio Zottarelli’s drumming. The candlelit ambience of “Dindi” is filament by the subtle dewdrops of the keyboards, and the conga rhythm of “Qui Nem Jilo” has a jelly-like jiggle with a savvy Brazilian style.

Singing all of the songs in their native Spanish, Ito shows a revelry for the songs original forms while polishing them with a contemporary gleam. The harmonic forms are well-versed and deftly balanced able to support Ito’s vocals and project the luster in her vocals beautifully.

## REVIEW: Yuko Ito's "Mania De Você"

Published April 2nd, 2010 at 5:17 pm in [Music Reviews](#) with [no comments](#)  
Tagged with [bossa nova](#), [jazz](#), [Latin jazz](#), [Yuko Ito](#)



Singer **Yuko Ito** studied jazz in New York because she wanted to become more involved with the music she fell in love with while growing up in Japan. Her MySpace page features a phrase that is fitting of her music and her voice: "a born again Brazilian New Yorker".



*Mania De Você* (Funny Baby Face) could have easily been recorded in the mid to late 70's, as it has an authentic quality that comes from someone who sounds like she was born and

raised in South America. Her versions of "Garota De Ipanema" ("Girl From Ipanema"), "Agua De Beber", and "Flor De Lis" may be able to transport you to the places of inspiration, but it's Ito's voice that'll blow you away. She also does her own background vocals, and again, it sounds very true.

Ito covers a wide range of music outside of the jazz and Brazilian realm, and I'm sure no matter what she embraces with future albums, she will make it sound like her music, as any artist should.

[Mania De Você](#)  
Yuko Ito  
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## Yuko Ito 'Mania de Voce'

8/16/2010  
My Nguyen



According to her website, Yuko Ito is a born-again Brazilian New Yorker. Originally from Tokyo, Japan, Ito's first foray into the **music** world became realized when she started her own rock band, the Sissy Boys, which produced two records. With much success with her band, Ito decided she needed to broaden her musical horizons and moved to New York to piece together her aspirations. A vocal coach there introduced her to jazz, which jump-started a musical career that delved into the making of *Mania de Voce*, a fantastic album in its own right.

This 10 standard-track encompasses the range and quality of Ito's vibrant and smooth vocals. Like the discrete essence of a silhouette, or the hint of perfume that is the emblem of a real **woman**, Ito's songs are passionate yet subtle. Unlike the tiresomely outrageous acts these days, Ito doesn't need to incorporate any of that flash or gaudiness to entertain.

With actual content to back her up, these songs follow the tradition of remaking older classics. The songs on this album are renditions of classical works by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Djavan, Luiz Gonzaga, Rita Lee, Carlinhos Brown and Baden Powell. Adding her own finesse to these songs, Ito has a flair for the intimate and exquisite.

From rebellious rocker to born-again Brazilian New York songstress, Ito owns the exotic title for a **singer** who is the most unwilling to let genres or labels inhibit her. Listeners could imagine what will be up her sleeve in the coming years.



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**Yuko Ito**  
**Mania De Voce**  
Funny Baby Face Record

**Soul** Reviewed 6/21/10

**Yuko Ito**  
***Mania De Voce***

Authentic soul can come from all corners of the globe. Regardless of the language spoken or instruments played, soul has survived the ages and is alive and well in the music world today. Yuko Ito is here to share her gifts with the world, and "Mania De Voce" is head and shoulders above the rest.

Featuring all the best elements of international music, "Mania De Voce" is a sonic explosion on the summer charts. Certain to place highly on both traditional soul/R&B charts as well as digital downloads, this album is likely to have a very good year.

Without a weak song throughout, "Mania De Voce" is a great example of a complete album from an artist that has their audience's ear and heart in mind when laying down their music. Give Yuko Ito's "Mania De Voce" a listen today.

Christopher Llewellyn Adams

# GappleGate Guitar and Bass Blog

## Grego Applegate Edwards Blogs on Guitarists, Bassists, Musicians & Music

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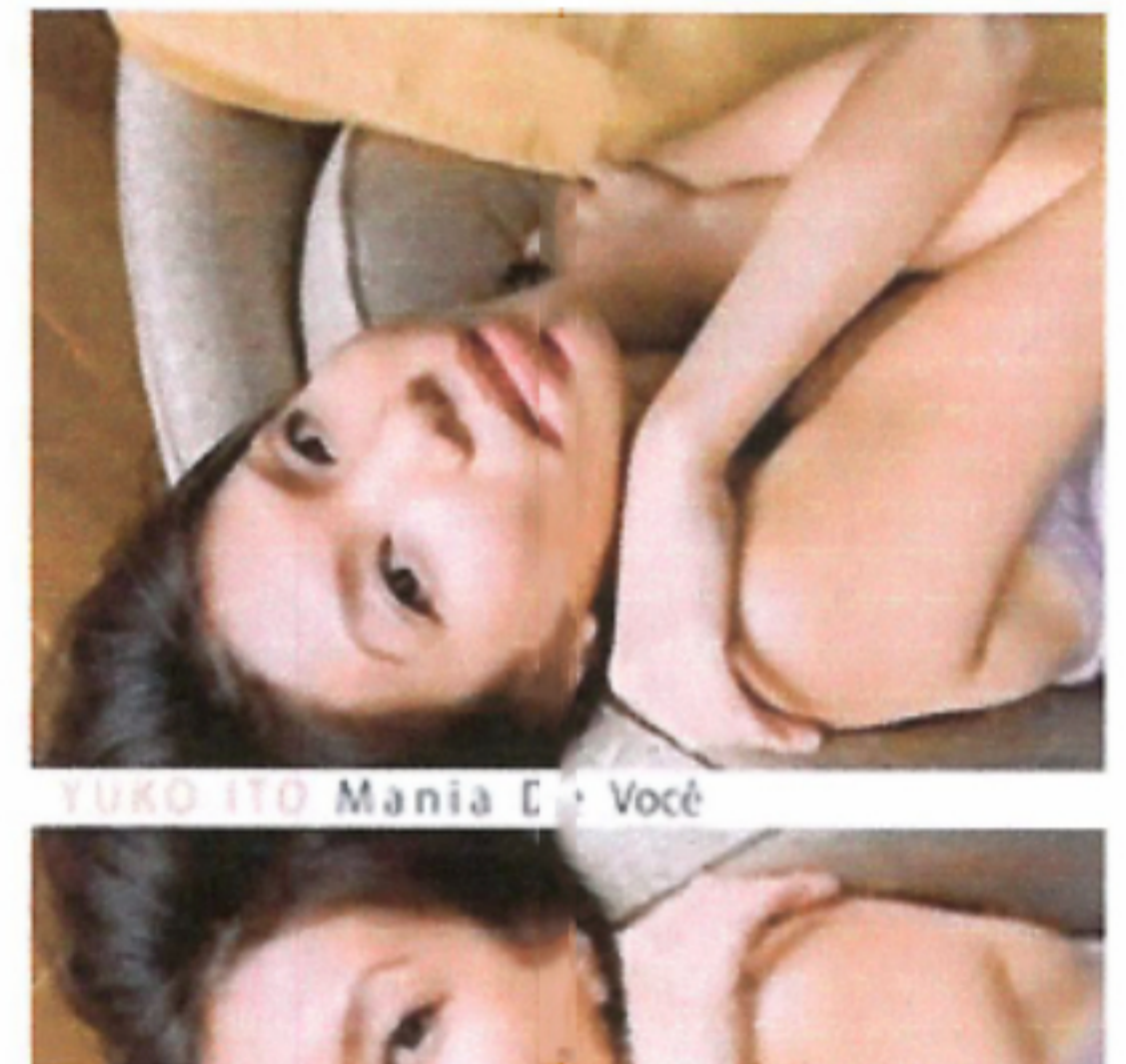
Grego Applegate Edwards writes this column.

The GappleGate Guitar and

Thursday, April 29, 2010

## Yuko Ito Sings Brazilian Bossa-Samba Standards

Today a look at Tokyo born-and-bred vocalist Yuko Ito. She started out in a rock context, recording two albums with the all-girl band Sissy Boy. Yuko then moved to the Big Apple in 1994 and has transformed herself into a jazz vocalist of poise and finesse.



Her new release *Mania de Voce* (Funny Baby Face) tackles ten standards of the bossa-samba variety, great songs arranged well by Yuko and Itaguara Brandao. You'll find many, if not most of these songs familiar to you if you have listened at any length to Brazilian jazz.


The band has moments of heat and other moments where the light lilt of bossa is foremost. Either way they give good support to Yuko's vocals. She has a very attractive instrument. Her voice has the punchy rhythmic attack that is so essential to this music. Her pitch control is dead-on. Phrasings show subtlety and the sound of her voice is quite attractive.

She is a vocalist that should get attention. This is some very fine music.

Posted by GappleGate at 4:24 AM

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03/23/10

## BLUE BAMBOO MUSIC

CAROL MORGAN TRIO/Opening: If you've followed Morgan through any of the Diva Orchestra related recordings, you know how sexist it would be to say she can hold her own with any of the trumpet blowing fellahs. Sheesh. A real player with a big tone, Morgan leads the trio through a tour de force that unselfconsciously puts her front and center quite deservedly so. A mainstay in hipper New York jazz circles, this is another winning solo set from Morgan that should serve to widen the ripples from those circles a little farther west of the Hudson. Check it out.

15

## ERIKA

ERIKA MATSUO/Obsession: I guess the memo has gone out. Hot, young Asian chicks are no longer required to be classical/crossover violinists if they want to be in the music business. Matsuo has gotten the memo that it's ok to be Brazilian flavored and she jumps in with both feet on a Brazilian flavored set that covers the high spots without hitting clichés and shows she's got the vocal chops to take this anywhere she wants to go. Tasty, auspicious debut that genre fans and jazz vocal fans looking for a new kick will do quite well to look, and listen, in this direction. Well done.

## FUNNY BABY FACE

YUKO ITO/Mania de Voce: Looks like more than the memo has gone out. There's something in the water. Two hot, young Asian chicks with a thing for Brazilian music on the same day? Ito differs from Matsuo in that she has fronted some punk bands in the past and you can hear the manic energy in her Brazilian waxings where Matsuo has the sound of lingering over cocktails down pat. The high octane side of things that probably sounds the way Ipanima sounds once the sun goes down, same world different take, same big fun quotient. Solid stuff high octane fans will dig.

901

## FAT HEAD

JEFF TURNES/Five Horses, Four Riders: I guess you call this set a roots set simply because of the lack of anything else. Married to blues belter Janiva Magness but playing and writing with a literal list of everybody, this finds Turnes stepping out on his own, with some genre stellar pals in tow, and letting the heights get hit. A very singular set that could possibly be a hit in

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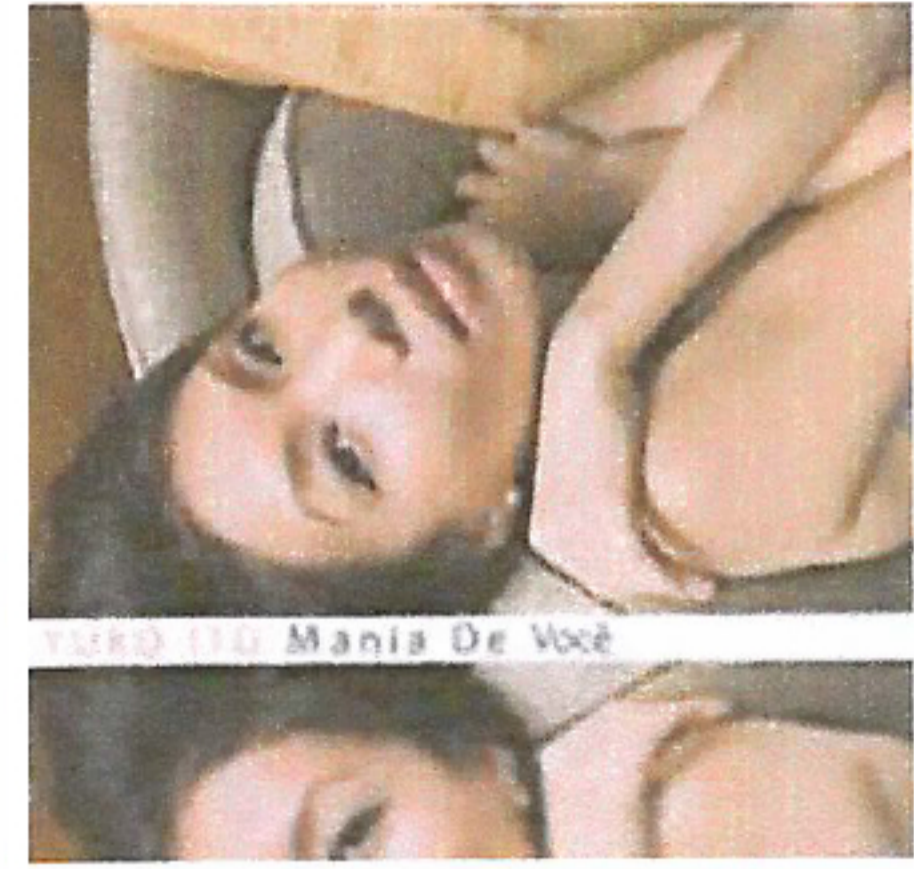
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## YUKO ITO

### Mania De Você

#### (Funny Baby Face Records)

A native of Tokyo, Japan, Yuko Ito started her early music career when she founded the female rock band "Sissy Boy" in Tokyo and produced two CDs— *Marcy's Factory*, and *Kick Off Boys*. In 1994, she relocated to the U.S. to continue her music education, earning a degree from the City College of New York in jazz vocal performance. The young vocalist's latest release documents her evolution, from her previously rebellious rock attitude to her current artistic maturity, derived from the songstress' immersion in the passionately rhythmic world of Brazilian music. *Mania De Você* is a warm collection of Brazilian standards penned by a wide range of illustrious composers, such as Antonio Carlos Jobim, Djavan, Luiz Gonzaga, Rita Lee, Carlinhos Brown and Baden Powell. All selections deliver a provocative testament that exudes romance and joy to its listeners. Backed by an all-star band led by Itaguara Brandão (guitar/bass), Yuko Ito is also accompanied by Oriente López (Fender Rhodes/flute), Cidinho Teixeira (piano), Mauricio Zottarelli (drums), Aaron Heick (saxophone), and percussionists Café and Davi Vieira. Singing from the heart, she weaves a beautiful musical tapestry full of infectious rhythms and uplifting arrangements. Standouts include the selections *Berimbau*, *Dindi* and the title track (*Mania De Você*). —*Rudy Mangual*

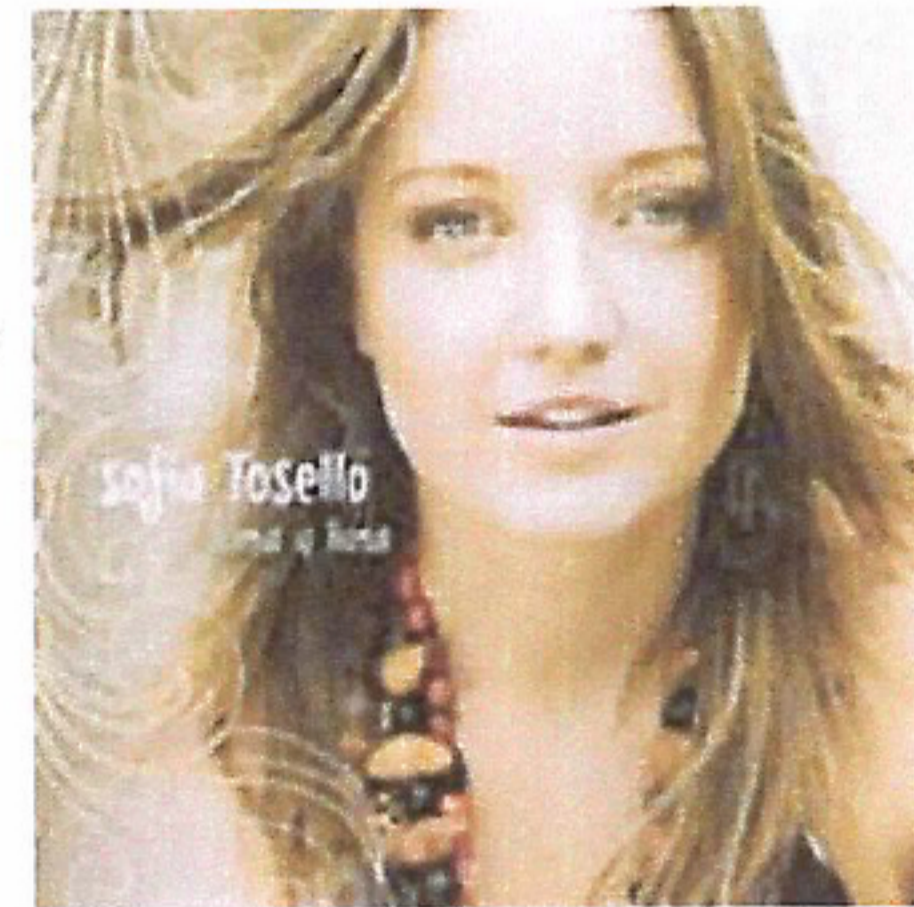


## SOFIA TOSELLO

### Alma y Luna

#### (Sunnyside)

Hailing originally from Córdoba, Argentina, and currently regarded as a compelling voice in New York City's jazz scene, Sofía Tosello delivers a debut solo production rooted in Latin American musical culture. Although she has interpreted multiple genres from the entire Western Hemisphere (including but not limited to tango, vals, bolero, filin, son, and jazz), what really stands out is her soothing and soft, but yet strong voice, as well as her clear diction. Singing within an acoustic environment —under the leadership of drummer/percussionist Yayo Serka (a first-call session player) — Sofía comes through like a divine narrator of fairy tales. Her supporting cast also includes guitarists Julio Santillán, Miguel Rivaynera, Byron Ramos, Aquiles Báez and Pavel Urkiza; bassists Pedro Giraudo, Yuniór Terry, and Jorge Roeder; pianists Axel Tosca and Osmany Paredes; accordionists Raúl Lavandez and Rob Curto; Anat Cohen (clarinet), Yosvany Terry (sax), Pablo Farhat (violin), and Dyan Abad (trombone), plus numerous percussionists. Favorites include *La Clara Cruz*, *Sentirme Libre Contigo*, *Sin Piel*, and the title track (*Alma y Luna*). —*Rudy Mangual*



## ~John M. Peters, The Borderland (Musicwatch Column)

Yuko Ito - Mania De Voce (Funny Baby Face Records FBFR 0901)

There is something rather enticing about Brazilian music - especially when one is still freezing their backside off in what is a recalcitrant winter that doesn't know spring has arrived. Those golden Rio beaches and the tanned lithe überbabes... I'm a bloke, I can fantasise! So, the warm vibes of this new Brazilian jazz album by Japanese vocalist Yuko Ito are very welcome. From the first flourishes of latin percussion on the opener, Berimbau, Mania De Voce charms and dazzles the listener into thinking they are on one of those beaches drinking something fruity and cold. Ms Ito has a lovely voice, beguiling, sexy, but also with a little grit in there when required. Her septet band of Brazilian musicians are equally superb, supporting her voice with a sympathetic flourish and lashes of latin insouciance, and just a hint of restrained funkiness when required. The ten tracks on this CD constitute a masterclass on how to sing the Great Brazilian Songbook [Jobim, Djavan, Baden Powell, Carlinhos Brown] the right way, and its interesting that this is the second successful album by a Japanese vocalist singing Latin American jazz [in Portuguese] to reach me this month - there's obviously something going on in the Japanese air! Tracks on this album include Smile, Girl From Ipanema, Dindi, Corcovado, Qui Nem Jiló and many others. Mania De Voce is a gorgeous album, a work of luscious joy for romantics everywhere, and a harbinger of the summer to come. One of my albums of the year without any doubt.

For more information about this artist and album and availability visit:

[www.Yukosings.com](http://www.Yukosings.com)



## O's Place Review

**Yuko Ito** - Mania De Voce 4/4

O's Notes: It was surprising to see an Asian woman breathing life into these Brazilian classics but Ito does a fine job. She sings in English and Brazilian Portuguese to perfection. Her tone is melodic with excellent support from her band including Itaguara Brandão (g, b), Oriente Lopez (p, fl), Café (perc) and Davi Vieira (perc). The recording quality is pristine as well making this a pleasure to listen to. "Garot De Ipanema", "Magamalabares" and "Água De Beber" were among the best.

--

**D. Oscar Groomes**

**O's Place Jazz Magazine**

<http://www.OsPlaceJazz.com>

and the guys a chance to show off.

This is very, very good stuff. And yet I know there's a pretty good chance that Ms. Fulton's next one will be even better.

Very highly recommended.

[Website](#) – [MySpace](#) – [Facebook](#)

## Yuko Ito – Mania De Você



**(Funny Baby Face Records)  
Released – March 22, 2010**

A ten-pack of Brazilian standards – this one is a refreshing in that Yuko Ito's style is quite different than the Astrud Gilberto sound that sometimes seems to permeate the genre. There's nothing ethereal about Ms. Ito's sound – she takes command from the beginning, I had no doubt but that she owns this disc.

Ms. Ito's way with the lyric leaves plenty of room for adding a passion that's sometimes lacking in Brazilian outings.

I'm loving the title track, along with Jobim's "Corcovado" and "Agua De Beber," and Baden Powell's "Berimbau."

Joined by Itaguara Brandão on bass and guitar – Oriente Lopez on Fender Rhodes and flute, pianist Cidinho Teixeira, Aaron Heick on alto sax (nice riff on "Agua De Beber") and Cafe, Davi Vieira and Mauricio Zottarelli on percussion – this is a quality piece of work. It's been in heavy rotation on my 'pod for a while, now.

Ms. Ito is a native of Japan – but calls herself a "...born again Brazilian New Yorker."

You got a problem with that? I don't.

This disc is highly recommended.

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## Yuko Ito Charts at JazzWeek World

New York, NY - Yuko Ito's Brazilian jazz debut CD, *Mania De Voc*, is a provocative, unwavering testament to love. With renditions of classical compositions by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Djavan, Luiz Gonzaga, Rita Lee, Carlinhos Brown and Baden Powell, the album exudes romance and communicates her attraction to and profound respect for Brazilian music. The intoxicating flute melody, traditional guitar and percussion in "Ela Carioca" (Antonio Carlos Jobim/Vinicius De Moraes) transcends you to Rio de Janeiro; the unique fusion with "Smile" (Charles Chaplin) gives it a fresh, uplifting tone that Ito views as a natural combination.

- 35 - Babatunde Lea, *Umbo Weti: A Tribute To Leon Thomas* (Motema)
- 38 - Queen Ifrica, *Montego Bay* (VP)
- 39 - Tricky & South Rakkas Crew, *Tricky Meets South Rakkas Crew* (Domino)
- 39 - CeU, *Vagarosa* (Six Degrees)
- 41 - Sanchez, *Now & Forever* (VP)
- 41 - Yuko Ito, *Mania De Voce* (Funny Baby Face Records)**
- 41 - Tarrus Riley, *Contagious* (VP)

Ms. Ito's passion for Brazilian tradition is evidenced by her all-star band, each accomplished Brazilian and Latin music artists. The band is composed of: Yuko Ito (vocals); Itaiguara Brando (Bass, Guitar); Oriente Lopez (Fender Rhodes, Flute); Cidinho Teixeira (Piano); Mauricio Zottarelli (Drums); Caf, Davi Vieira (Percussion); and Aaron Heick (Alto Saxophone). The album was produced and arranged by Yuko Ito and Itaiguara Brando, a Rio de Janeiro native.

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## Yuko Ito Charts at JazzWeek World

1/25/2014 10:00 AM

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## YUKO ITO – MANIA DE VOCE

Yuko Ito's new CD *Mania De Voce* represents her profound respect and love for Brazilian music with renditions of classic works of Antonio Carlos Jobim, Djavan, Luiz Gonzaga, Rita Lee, Carlinhos Brown and Baden Powell. A native of Tokyo, Japan, she has been performing publicly in wide range of styles: pop, rock, R&B, jazz funk, gospel, free jazz and various forms of Brazilian music since high school.

Her early musical career began when she founded the girl's rock band Sissy Boy, which produced two CDs: *Marcy's Factory*, with Vaan Media, and *Kick Off Boy's*, with Crown Records Japan. Even with her early success in Japan, Yuko's musical vision was broad and she chose to move to New York in 1994. A vocal coach soon encouraged her to explore jazz and eventually this led to her receiving B.F.A degree from City College of New York in music (Jazz Vocal Performance).

After a jam session Yuko attended while still in school, she was invited by jazz artist Sabir Mateen to perform with him. This encouraged her to continue to draw deeply from the jazz tradition in her work. She has performed with the Harlem Gospel Choir and appeared at Blue Note (New York), She has also performed with the Harlem Gospel Choir in Times Square on *Good Morning America* (ABC) and "New Yorker" (NHK BS1).

Having been lured by positive lyrics, unique beats and passionate movement, Yuko grew with her rebellious rock attitude into a mature songstress and it shows on her new album *Mania De Voce*. Yuko Ito, originally from Japan, has evolved into a born again Brazilian New Yorker.

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Written By: - Anna Maria Stjärnell

## Luna Kafé record review

[Japan](#) - [Full Moon 167](#) - 04/28/10

# Yuko Ito

## Mania de Você

Funny Baby Face Record



Tokyo-born Yuko Ito sings Brazilian songs like it's all she's ever done before. She's well supported by a strong band of musicians.

"Corcovado" gets a suitably languid reading that puts the emphasis on her dreamy delivery. "Ela a carioca/Smile" weds a Jobim tune to Chaplin's evergreen song with amazing results. Ito's sweet vocal suits both songs especially well. The band lends their support well also. The title song is softly and sweetly performed, yet has a sophisticated undercurrent to it. The vocal is impeccable as well.

"Flor de lis" ends the collection well, Ito singing mellifluously to a languid backing. It sounds like she's at home making Brazilian music and living in New York. That's being a citizen of the world for you.