

YUKO ITO

A native of Tokyo, Japan, Ito 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, Ito's musical vision was broad. Moving to New York in 1994, it was a vocal coach who soon encouraged her to explore jazz, which took her on the path of studying and receiving a B.F.A degree from City College of New York in music (Jazz Vocal Performance, under the direction of Sheila Jordan). After a jam session, Ito 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). She can be regularly performing at many of the top venues in New York: Lenox Lounge, Jazz at Kitano The Better End, Tomi Jazz, Lanza's Antique Garage Soho and TriBeCa, including regular tours in Japan.

The culmination of her experiences in multiple genres is what gives Ito her rebellious verve, along with jazz phrasing. Having been lured by positive lyrics, unique beats and passionate movement, Ito incorporates a melodic structure to form a style that is uniquely hers; truly a mature songstress. Ito's passion for Brazilian music as shown by her first album *Mania De Você*, followed by her 2nd album *O Cantador*, co-produced by the great pianist/composer Cidinho Teixeira (Djavan and Gilbel Gil and more). Though originally from Japan, Ito has evolved into a born again Brazilian New Yorker, even her fellow native born Brazilian musician friends praise her Portuguese as being flawless, and her ability to interpret the Brazilian music tradition, unmatched and purely original.



Esperança YUKO ITO

Esperança is Yuko Ito's 3rd Album. The English translation of "Esperança" is hope. The recording is a collection of Brazilian songs by: Milton Nascimento, Antônio Carlos Jobim, Luiz Bonfá, Ivan Lins and Dori Caymmi. In addition, Ito recorded two songs from the great American Song Book, "Moon River" and "What A wonderful World." Ito also combined the Japanese song "Tsubasa wo Kudasai" with Brazilian rhythms. The album contains an original by Daniel Giel, "Stolen Water" and an original by Ito. Ito is backed by the great pianist Helio Alves and his Trio. Guitarist Romero Lubambo also performs on *Esperança*.

Ito describes the album, "*Esperança* was a name that Romero Lubambo gave to an original song that I wrote when I was in the 6th grade, it was supposed to be a graduation song. The theme of the song is 'Please have a dream and hope in your life.' Now, I am an adult and I am doing music and living in New York. I think Life is like a Voyage, there are encounters and farewells, all you need is to believe in yourself and go your way. When you listen to this album I hope you feel this story too.

1. Vera Cruz 5:31 music by Milton Nascimento
Lyrics by Márcio Borges

2. Moon River 5:23 Music by Henry Mancini
Lyrics by Johnny Mercer

3. Só Danço Samba 3:29 Music by Antônio Carlos Jobim
Lyrics by Vinícius de Moraes

4. Manhã De Carnaval 5:35 Music by Luiz Bonfá
Lyrics by Antônio Maria

5. Owari No Nai Kisetu 4:24 Music by Yuko Ito
Lyrics by Noriko Iida and Yuko Ito Arrangements by
Yuko Ito and Michika Fukumori

6. Madalena 4:37 Music by Ivan Lins Lyrics by Ronaldo
Moteiro de Souza

7. Começar De Novo 4:14 Music by Ivan Lins
Lyrics by Vítor Martins

8. Ponta De Areia 4:42 Music by Milton Nascimento
Lyrics by Fernando Brant Arrangements by Yuko Ito

9. Stolen Water 3:12 Music & Lyrics by Daniel Giel
Arrangements by Yuko Ito

10. Vivência/ Obsession 3:28 Music by Dori Caymmi Gipson Peranzzetta
Lyrics by Paulo C Pinheiro Arrangements by Michika Fukumori

11. Tsubasa Wo Kudasai 4:03 Music by Kunihiko Murai
Lyrics by Michio Yamagami Arrangements by Yuko Ito and Michika Fukumori

12. What A Wonderful World 5:22 Music and Lyrics by
Bob Thiele and George David Weiss

13. Esperança 4:24 Music Lyrics and Arrangements by Yuko Ito
Lyrics supervised by Vanessa Falabella

Yuko Ito on Vocal, Composition and Arrangements
Helio Alves on piano (1,2,4,6,7,8,12)
Edward Perez on bass (1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10,11)
Alexandre Kautz on drum and percussion(1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10,11)
Richard E Miller on guitar (1,4,9,10)
Oriente Lopez on flute(1,4,10)
Michika Fukumori on piano and Arrangements (5,10,11)
Romero Lubambo on guitar percussion and vocal (3,13)
Luisa Lubambo on vocal(13)

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