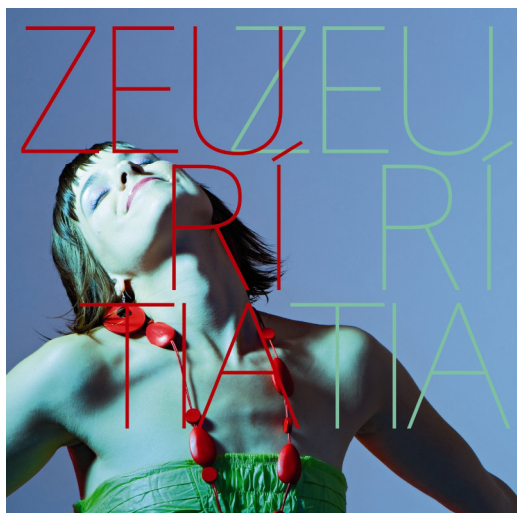


**ZEURÍTIA is releasing her debut album of modern jazz renditions of Brazilian music on the ANIMAL MUSIC label.**

Young Czech jazz singer **ZEURÍTIA** is releasing her debut album on the **Animal Music** label. The CD consists of Brazilian music with bossa nova and samba rhythms in a modern jazz interpretation, as well as jazz pieces inspired by Brazilian music, all in skillful, colorful arrangements. **ZEURÍTIA** sings in Portuguese so flawless that native speakers regularly come up to her after her concerts, thinking that they are speaking with a fellow countrywoman. The pieces on the album are by such classic masters of Brazilian music as **Antonio Carlos Jobim, Dorival Caymmi, Newton Mendonca, Carlos Lyra** and **Pedro Caetano**. The arranger and producer of the album is the singer's husband, guitarist **Libor Šmoldas** who has also recorded two CD's with the Ondřej Pivec Organic Quartet, of which he is a founding member (the first album won the 2006 „Czech Grammy“ Award for Best Jazz Album). Šmoldas also performs with his own trio, whose debut album *On the Playground* was released by Animal Music in 2007. Joining the husband and wife team were drummer **Tomáš Vokurka**, percussionist **Miloš Dvořáček Jr.**, and special guests from Poland, pianist **Michał Tokaj** (Michał Tokaj Trio, Aga Zaryan Band, Jaromír Honzák Quartet and numerous other groups) and double bassist / bass guitarist **Michał Barański** (Michał Tokaj Trio, Aga Zaryan Band, David Dorůžka Trio and numerous other groups). One song features a ukelele purchased expressly for the purpose of recording this project and played by **Petr Ostrouchov**, the owner of the Animal Music label. The album was recorded during the summer of 2008 at Studio Svárov in Czech Republic by sound engineer Lukáš Martinek and mastered by famous Grammy-winning engineer Bob Katz at Digital Domain in Florida, USA. The album was designed by graphic artist Aleš Najbrt and photographer Václav Jirásek. The release party is taking place on 5th December 2008 in Prague, Dobeška Theatre.



**ZEURÍTIA** track list:

1. Lobo Bobo (C. Lyra, R. Bôscoli)
2. Samba de Verão (M. Valle, P.S. Valle)
3. Saudade da Bahia (D. Caymmi)
4. Você e Eu (C., V. de Moraes)
5. Chovendo na Roseira (A.C. Jobim)
6. I Wish You Love (Ch. Trenet, A. Beach)
7. Samba do Avião (A.C. Jobim)
8. Samba de Uma Nota Só (A.C. Jobim, N. Mendonça)
9. É Com Esse Que Eu Vou (P. Caetano)
10. Diga (V.Paiva, F.Martins)
11. Brazilian Impressions (L.Šmoldas)
12. É Luxo Só (A.Barroso, L.Peixoto)
13. Doralice (D.Caymmi, A.Almeida)
14. Chega de Saudade (A.C. Jobim, V. de Moraes)

**ZEURÍTIA** studied singing, first at Prague's Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory and then at the Post-Secondary School of the Jaroslav Ježek Conservatory. She has also worked with American guitarist René Trossman. In recent years she has been focusing on Brazilian music in the ensemble led by her husband, guitarist Libor Šmoldas, already a fixture of the Prague jazz club scene.

Interview with **ZEURÍTIA**:



**Why did you choose bossa nova for your debut?**

I feel at home in its rhythm and beautiful melodies. From the first moment, Brazilian music found a place in my heart, as if I had known it intimately. Maybe in the future I will pursue other music as well, but just now bossa nova is the most inspiring and fun for me. I started singing bossa nova with Labor as a duo, and later we put a quartet together. I am glad that after more than a year of

working with the band we were able to record this CD.

**Your concert schedule is quite full. What for you is the biggest difference between recording and performing live?**

I've just had a year of intensive performing in jazz clubs and jazz festivals. The start was very difficult for me, like it is for probably everybody; I was struggling with myself onstage. But in time things started to turn around, and I realized that I had come a long way, that I could enjoy it without being afraid. It meant hours of practicing intonation and technique, working at the piano, listening to albums, listening to myself and the band. But most of all, learning to relax and communicate with people. To believe in myself. And in the studio? This is my debut, and even though I have some studio experience, this was something more. A lot of responsibility and fear that I would disappoint myself. It wasn't easy; often I knew exactly how I wanted to sing a particular song, but in the end it turned out completely different. It's great to have people in the studio who tell you, "Yeah! I like that." And those people were there.

**How was working with Polish guest artists in the studio?**

Both of them are exceptional musicians, and making contact with us and getting on the same wave as us wasn't a problem for them at all. They played so beautifully that I was literally breathless with joy in the studio. They exceeded my expectations by far, there's no better way to say it. I think it was a lot of fun for them as well, because they don't often get a chance to play bossa nova and samba.

**How would you like listeners to perceive your album?**

I'll be happy if it brings joy and relaxation to busy, stressful days. The original arrangements intentionally leave a lot of room for improvisation, so the album has a very jazz-oriented character, which I think is good.

**What are your musical plans for the future?**

I'm not really a natural-born planner. I'm very intuitive, and I do the things that occur to me, things I like to do. So it's hard to predict what my further projects will be like. Certainly, I have a lot of work to do before I'll be satisfied with myself, so I try to devote my free time to practicing and listening to music, but not just bossa nova—that would be silly. I have big dreams of course, not just

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about music, but that's not something one should talk about. Mostly I'd like for our new album to be a success.

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