

SONGLINES

REVIEWS

The Americas

Luísa Maita Lero-Lero

Cumbancha CMB-CD17

Full Price (41 mins)



Sumptuous, seductive and surprisingly substantial



São Paulo seems to be producing dozens of smoky, smoochy women singers at the moment. Only Céu and Mariana Aydar have made any waves outside Brazil, but

they are the tip of an iceberg that includes equally interesting names like Andreia Dias, Anelis Assumpção and Dani Gurgel. Like many of them, Luísa Maita was born of a musical family. Her mother Myriam Taubkin is a scion of one of the city's most prestigious musical dynasties. Her father Arnaldo recorded a little-known but well respected solo album in the 70s. And *Lero-Lero* reflects the musical maturity and proficiency born of such a heritage. The mood is introspective – a little like Céu but closer to an older generation of Suba-influenced Paulistana singers such as Cibelle and Mylene. Like both, Maita mixes light Brazilian percussion with electronic ambience, filling the gaps between with fingerpicked guitar, *cuíca*, mandolin and floating bass and keyboards. Her softly sung vocals drift over the top. And the overall result is somnambulist, sumptuous and soothing without being superficial – especially on tracks like 'Anunciou', with its spiralling multi-layered vocals and on the light, springy *forró*, 'Fulaninha'. This is music which has been carefully composed and arranged, and which improves with each listening. A real delight.

Alex Robinson

