



NOVEMBER 11

SUNDAY

7:00PM

WORLD VOICES: PORTUGAL
CRISTINA BRANCO

PALACE OF FINE ARTS THEATRE

"Portugal's eminent fado *chanteuse*."

—TIME

International star Cristina Branco appears tonight on the heels of a new live CD, infusing the nostalgia and longing of Portuguese fado with modern drama and glamour. In the words of *Time Magazine*: "Even when she sings of desolation, Branco's delivery seems animated by the pleasure of recovering something lost."

While 18 might be the age of legal adulthood in many parts of the world, it represented an *artistic* coming-of-age for Branco. Living in the quaint central Portuguese city of Almeirim, she grew up with fairly broad musical tastes which included bossa nova, blues, jazz and other international sounds. But she never had the inclination to listen to fado, the urban song form that is perhaps a second cousin to the American blues. Going back to at least the early 19th Century, fado (which translates roughly to "fate" or "destiny") addresses the hardships of poverty and longing. "It's music that frames a singer's voice while it mercilessly exposes every nuance of sorrow and determination [via] a gleaming cat's-cradle of fingerpicked Portuguese guitars," wrote the *New York Times*' Jon Pareles.

It would have been an old-fashioned tradition to the young Branco, an amateur singer who was beginning to study mass media at college, with the goal of becoming a journalist. For that fateful birthday, her grandfather gave her the album *Rara e Inéita* by Amália Rodrigues, the queen of 20th Century fado. Mesmerized, Branco delved into learning about and practicing the national musical art form while still continuing her undergraduate studies. Moonlighting while continuing her student life, she eventually went into music full-time in 1996.

Now boasting more than a half-dozen acclaimed CDs to her name, she is not only one of the leading lights of 21st-century fado, but a fully mature artist of rare power. As the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* wrote of one concert appearance: "An enchantress, she drew listeners into her world with the sheer beauty of her remarkable voice, a musical instrument that cuts to the heart, pours salt on the wound and then soothes like a healing balm."

CRISTINA BRANCO

Cristina Branco, vocal
Custodio Castelo, Portuguese guitar
Ricardo Dias, piano
Alexandre Silva, acoustic guitar
Fernando Maia, acoustic bass guitar

MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY
 Darian and Rick Swig

1 **Festival Debut.**
 Artists making their first
 Festival appearance.



NOVEMBER 17

SATURDAY

8:00PM

WORLD VOICES: BRAZIL
CAETANO VELOSO

NOB HILL MASONIC CENTER

"One of the greatest songwriters of the [20th] century."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Tonight, Grammy-winner and world music superstar Caetano Veloso gives his first Festival performance since his sold-out 2004 show.

Veloso's early musical explorations reflected the music of the socially turbulent late-'60s. Influenced by the bossa nova sounds of João Gilberto and Dori Caymmi, his output was a staple of MPB (*Musica Popular Brasileira*, i.e., Brazilian pop music). Veloso's lyrics incorporated his political activist values, and that basis of his music would eventually transform into an entirely new form. Formed in 1967 along with fellow singer-songwriter Gilberto Gil, the revolutionary sounds of *tropicália* employed bossa nova rhythms but also incorporated contemporary rock, folk and psychedelic sounds imported from England and America.

The new genre was controversial, both artistically and politically. Bossa nova fans were stunned by the cross-pollenization of their indigenous pop music with heavy elements from the north. Brazil's military dictatorship, which had been in power since 1964, jailed the pair for several months in 1968 for so-called anti-government activity. Upon their release, they relocated to London and continued to grow an international following there. Veloso returned to Brazil in 1972 and mixed the music he heard abroad with folk music traditions of his homelands.

In the 35 years since his homecoming, Veloso has secured his status as a national icon. In the mid-'70s, a compilation of his prose and poetry was published. During the '80s, he further won over new fans around the world by touring internationally extensively.

Just as *tropicália* took note of and embraced rock & roll, so too does Veloso again bring heavier sounds to his latest album, *Cê*, which was released domestically in 2007 on Nonesuch. Around the core of electric and bass guitars and drums, he makes nods towards garage rock and punk while maintaining his always identifiable creative voice.

CAETANO VELOSO

Caetano Veloso, vocals, guitars
Pedro Sá, electric guitar, bass, vocals
Ricardo Dias Gomes, bass, Rhodes piano
Marcelo Callado, drums, vocals

SPONSORED BY



HOTEL MAJESTIC

25 **Encore Performance.**
 Artists marking a Silver Anniversary
 return to the Festival.

MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY
 Tim and Nancy Howes