

# LUANDA

Jones

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Translated by  
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Luanda Jones and her mother, Irinea Ribeiro, singing at Lula Lounge in Toronto.

## A unique blend of bossa nova, funk, jazz and samba

I never met Luanda Jones prior to this interview. The only thing I knew was what I had researched on the Brazilian Internet. She has been trying to establish her career as a singer in Canada for the past six years. I click on the sample CD available on her website while I continue to complete my daily tasks. *Aquarela* (Watercolor), featured song on her CD bearing the same name, begins to play and something magical happens. I stop everything. I simply have to stop and listen to that song, dedicating all my feelings to that crystal voice which penetrates my heart and resonates internally. I wanted to meet her in person, telephone introductions are not negotiable. The meeting was arranged at her home. The place carries a Brazilian energy that is unexplainable, but can only be felt. A very tidy place and well decorated with

plants and photographs.

Let's begin with the origin of her name, "Luanda". She tells me that it was chosen by her parents when they were listening to a CD of African music. A vision came to them and that was Luanda, which just happens to be the capital of Angola. It means "the land of happiness."

Despite years of having a career in Brazil, her first CD was released in Canada, thanks to the incentive of the Canada Council of Arts, the support from her friends and of course her mother, who came from Brazil to oversee and participate in the work of her daughter.

And to think that when she arrived in Canada, Luanda had no intention of returning to her singing career anytime soon. However within two months, she was on stage again, opening for her friends in the band LAL. And she has never stopped.

"It was very emotional. No matter if you have two people, two hundred, and thousands. The energy is the same, the same love, the same concentration." Luanda continues to entertain the Canadian public. They are the majority of her followers. "Canadians are people who are touched by my music. They place great value in Brazilian music, even without understanding it", says the brunette, as she speaks with a distinctive laden carioca accent.

When we parted, Luanda, who had, found this intimate encounter strange, fully surrendered: "You can say that I came to Canada for love." I left feeling a sense of contentment with her contribution and with an autographed copy of Luanda Jones's CD under my arm. To learn more about Luanda Jones and to purchase her CD *Aquarela* please visit her site: [www.luandajones.com](http://www.luandajones.com)



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