

Dona Rosa

Long Biog

It was a track on Charlie Gilletts World 2004 compilation that first drew people's attention in the English speaking world, to Dona Rosa. Rosa was born in 1957 in Oporto, Portugal to a very poor family living in one room. Meningitis raged through that room when Rosa was still an infant and left her blind from the age of 4 years. Her luck began to change when Austrian music producer André Heller discovered her and invited Rosa to appear in an Austrian TV show produced in Marrakech, Morocco. In the year 2000, she appeared as a showcase act at the Womex worldmusic fair in Berlin and since that time she has carried on developing her repertoire of traditional Portuguese music sung in the Fado style. She started from singing in the Lisbon streets where she became an institution for the international tourists and ended up with a new quartet, performing on stages from Taipei, Moscow to Los Angeles, as well as on Womad stages in Spain and England.

Dona Rosa embodies the true longing of the soul for authenticity, rooted in a tradition where Fado is its most relevant and famous symbol. Her voice becomes the ideal instrument for the expression of this longing, and as she sings we feel that is indeed possible to stretch ourselves beyond the boundaries of our narrow, logical minds. We are easily moved, recognizing those places within ourselves that are moved and nurtured by her soulful voice. Dona Rosa, in her simple and genuine way, creates the mood so that the "Green Emerald" of our hearts can truly be seen.

Dona Rosa's first step into the international music business was her CD "Historias Da Rua" (2000) which was just her voice and triangle. Three years later "Segredos" (2003) was released and Dona Rosas third album "Alma Livre" (2007) releases our souls from the daily routine, portrays the true and non-conventional spirit of Dona Rosa, reminding us that there is no axe capable of cutting off the roots of free thinking. In 2012 "Sou Luz" was released and proved Dona Rosa's commercial potential. Haunting melodies and ballads like "Asa de Anjo" and "Retrato" are jewels of this CD. To complete the album, the traditional piece "Nesta Terra Portuguesa", a song that reminds her of her early days as a musician and her track telling her spoken life story, was both consciously chosen.

Dona Rosa works currently with:

Dona Rosa – vocals, triangel

Raul Abreu – portuguese guitar

João David Almeida – percussion, guitar

Paulo Loureiro - accordion