



In the past decade, Austin’s growing Brazilian music scene has risen and carved out its own vibrant space in the city’s musical landscape. Among the musicians helping boost the visibility of Brazilian artists locally is singer / songwriter and keyboardist Paula Maya. In her sixth studio album, “Illuminar,” she takes a departure from previous pop, electronica and rock-influenced albums and digs deeper into her Brazilian roots.

Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Maya’s latest record of mostly Portuguese songs feature everything from traditional bossa nova to a reggae-inspired pop tune. “Illuminar” releases May 4, and Austinites can celebrate at the CD release party on May 7 at the One-2-One Bar. Doors open at 6 p.m. and tickets are available for \$10 online at one2onebar.com. Check out Paula Maya’s music at

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http://txmusic.com/ezine/tmm_ezine_may15.pdf

Austin-based Paula Maya is originally from Rio de Janeiro, the birthplace of bossa nova and, a century earlier, choro, a Brazilian be-bop-like music. Both musical styles, as well as Brazilian dance music like samba and baião, are represented on *Illuminar*, where the jazzy, South American styles incorporate Brazilian melodies with folk, roots, electronica and pop.

The soft ballads and Brazilian percussion reveal an intimate side of Maya’s music, steeped in swirling melodies and rhythms of South America. Sung predominately in Portuguese, *Illuminar* is distinguished from Maya’s previous releases, which featured a mix of pop, rock, classical music, avant grade instrumentals and electronica. *Illuminar*, which means “to shine” in Portuguese, features eight songs — seven originals and one traditional bossa nova. The album title is taken from the opener, “*Illuminar Você*,” written in Portuguese about flying to Rio de Janeiro to see her old friends and family. Though *Illuminar* is inspired by Brazil, it’s also Maya’s first album completely recorded, mixed and mastered in Austin. Rolling by as gently as a samba-filled breeze, it’s all rolled together so seamlessly that it makes for a captivating whole.

— BRIAN MCGRATH