



## **WORLD MUSIC CENTRAL 6-17-2015**

[http://worldmusiccentral.org/2015/06/17/fusions-without-confusion/#attachment\\_46108](http://worldmusiccentral.org/2015/06/17/fusions-without-confusion/#attachment_46108)

Over in the United States, Brazilian-born, Austin-based Paula Maya brings her musical roots together with Congolese soukous, Latin and Caribbean rhythms and her adopted home's indie spirit. The resulting *Iluminar* (Yellow House Records, 2015) is breezy and delightful but hardly lacking in substance.

Maya delivers as both vocalist and keyboardist, singing primarily in Portuguese but some English as well, ranging from mellow to rollicking on seven originals and the Vinicius de Moraes/Toquinho bossa nova chestnut "Tarde em Itapoa." The production isn't fancy and the songs are stronger for it. Maya's love for what she does is evident throughout, thus this disc is a topflight pleasure.

## **MIDWEST RECORD 4-28-2015**

Maya is a Brazilian living in Austin after a 17 year stay in Seattle, singing in Portuguese and letting her love of sounds Latin and African gleefully dance throughout the mix. That mouthful is simply a long way of telling you that on her sixth album, Maya is playing to her strengths and this is probably the set that will be dubbed her commercial album. If you give this a casual listen, you'll probably be fascinated by all the things whizzing by you can't put your finger on. If you take the time to go deeper, you're sure to fall in love with it. Rolling by as gently as a samba filled breeze, there's a whole lot more than that going on but it's all rolled together so seamlessly that's it's just a magnificent whole. A winner throughout.

~ **Chris Spector**