

# NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com)

CONTACT: Jorge Luis González at 413-545-4482 or [jlq@admin.umass.edu](mailto:jlq@admin.umass.edu)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 3, 2009

**WHAT: Concert: Fine Arts Center Presents Portugal's  
Musical Grande Dame: Mariza  
Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 PM**

**WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
go online to [www.fineartscenter.com/tickets](http://www.fineartscenter.com/tickets)**

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to  
<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>**

### **The Reigning Ambassador of the Fado, Mariza, Brings New Voice of Portugal to the UMass Fine Arts Center**

A Genre Reborn and a Singer Transformed: A New Mariza Brings a Smile to the World Charlie Chaplin's "Smile" was never supposed to end up on the latest album by Portugal's musical grande dame. **Mariza**, a fado powerhouse, and Brazilian pianist Ivan Lins were just clowning around, having some fun with the sweet song that's been covered by everybody from Barbra Streisand and Diana Ross to Judy Garland and even Michael Jackson. That is, until they realized producer Javier Limón had been secretly recording them. When she looked up and saw tears in his eyes, she wondered what she had done. "I thought we broke something, I thought we did something wrong!" she exclaims. Sung with the kind of beautiful melancholy that only a fadista can bring, it instead ends up as a bonus track on the North American release of *Terra* (Four Quarters Entertainment / World Connection), a musical proclamation that Mariza has come into her own. *Terra* will be released stateside on January 27, 2009, to coincide with an extensive three-month 47 city tour of North America. **The UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall will be one of those stops on Thursday, February 19 at 7:30 PM. Patrons are invited to arrive early in the lobby at 6:30 for a Portuguese cultural festival showcasing pastries and culture of our local Portuguese population.**

Mariza calls "Smile" a gift, a "present for the kindness people have given to me through all this time, trying to understand me. It's my way of saying 'Thank you'." And audiences have certainly enjoyed watching her transform. If her debut album *Fado em Mim* was an effort to establish her knowledge of the fado tradition, having grown up in her father's fado house in Lisbon, her second release *Fado Curvo* allowed her to put her own stamp on the tradition while

demonstrating that there are more ways than one to move artistically from point A to point B. Her next release, *Transparente*, a more intimate, classically-inspired take on fado, expressed Mariza as a more experienced and sophisticated artist.

--End--

Since then Mariza has continued to wow audiences with her powerful talent as a live performer. She has also traveled the world, selling out concert halls, from Carnegie Hall and Disney Concert Hall to London's Royal Albert Hall and the Sydney Opera House, and winning awards, including a BBC World Music Award and 2008 Latin Grammy nomination.

Now a mature performer, Mariza's concerts showcase the new voice of Portugal, a voice comfortable enough with Portuguese music to have some fun with it. On the one hand, *Terra* is firmly planted in tradition; songs like "Já Me Deixou" and "Rosa Branca" rejuvenate well-worn, beloved songs of the past, and "Recurso" demonstrates her lifelong commitment to fado, having discovered this hand-written, never-published poem by David Mourão-Ferreira in a fado museum.

On the other hand, nourished by her traditional roots, Mariza branches out in new directions. The first clue of this was her choice of Javier Limón, a Grammy-nominated Spanish *flamenco* guitarist/producer (known for his work with Paco de Lucia, Bebo & Cigala, and Buika), as producer for *Terra*. At first leery of having somebody with such a different musical background working with her on her new album, Mariza invited him to Portugal to play in a *taverna*. It was then that it hit her: "Right then I knew he was the right one for this. With him, everything was music, *for* music."

Tickets for Mariza are \$35, \$30, and \$15. Youth 17 and under and Five College/GCC students are \$15. They are available from the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511, 800999-UMAS, or online at [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). The appearance of Mariza is sponsored by United Wealth Management Group, The Rainbow Times, WGBY TV 57, The River 93.9FM and the UMass Office for Student Affairs and Campus Life. The appearance of Mariza is funded in part by the Expeditions program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the American Masterpieces initiative, with additional support from the six New England state arts agencies.

-END