

Téka's Bio

Téka is an artist with roots firmly planted in the traditions of Brazilian music...the samba, bossa nova, and choro. From an early age, she fell under the spell of American Jazz and began soaking up the sounds of the jazz greats of the day.

Today, her music has become a fusion of the sensual rhythms and harmonies of Brazil with the sophistication and improvisation of Jazz, which she calls New Bossa. After graduating in Music Education from Sao Paulo University, Téka studied at Boston's Berklee College of Music.

She has performed and recorded with Brazilian legends Hermeto Pascoal, Gilberto Gil, Flora Purim and Airtó Moreira. Her first CD, "Garden Planet", was original music with an environmental theme.

Her second release, "Watercolours of Brazil," received uniformly high praise from critics and audiences alike. Don Heckman of the Los Angeles Times, said, "Like João Gilberto she brings everything into a unified expression, combining her vocal lines and rhythmic guitar accompaniments into a single, elegantly buoyant musical blend."

Téka appeared as the contralto soloist with the Santa Barbara Oratorio Chorale in the 1996 California premiere and subsequent performances in 1998 and 2006 of "Canto General" by Mikis Theodorakis and Pablo Neruda.

She has been featured as soloist with The Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, The San Luis Obispo Symphony Orchestra, and The Glendale Pops Orchestra. She has been featured at International Jazz Festivals and performs regularly at some of Los Angeles, Boston and New York's best-known jazz venues.

Her latest release, "So Many Stars," is a definitive statement that she is a mature, world-class artist. Her decision to use the minimum backing, bass and percussion, with her vocals and guitar, adding only a single solo instrument -- trumpet, saxophone, piano, bass flute, or guitar -- to each song, results in a marvelously intimate CD which shows her warm, nuanced voice to advantage.