

# Amalia Baraona, CD Review

By MARK REILLY

Amalia Baraona will already be familiar to many in Tirana as the delightful voice of jazz evenings at the Take Five club and Rogner Hotel. Sadly, professional reasons meant her talents were relocated to the city of Zagreb at the end of 2009, where she is already proving to be a huge success amongst Croatian Jazz lovers.

The release of her first CD "Mulheres" (which means "Women", in her native Portuguese), features 10 songs written about women and for

women, by Brazilian composers Chico Buarque, António Carlos Jobim, Dorival Caymmi, and Joyce and Ana Terra. It was recorded in April this year in Bari with backing musicians Bruno Montrone (piano and arrangements), Dário Di Lecce (double bass), Fábio Delle Foglie (drums), Guido Di Leone (guitar) and Francesco Lomangino (flute). The music represents a celebration of Ms Baraona's upbringing and formative influences (originally from Lisbon, she spent part of her childhood in Brazil). The bright, breezy opener 'A Rita' sets the

pace showcasing the band's disciplined ensemble playing and solos from flute, guitar and piano. The material is tastefully arranged throughout to showcase Ms Baraona's sultry vocals, which evoke warmth and happiness, nowhere more so that on the joyously upbeat 'Carolina' where her soaring vocal almost takes the song into orbit. Whether backed by the full band as in the melodic and bubbly 'Januaria' or with sparser piano accompaniment as in Carlos Jobim's atmospheric 'Ligia', the musicians provide a wonderfully understated and sympathetic

counterpoint to Ms Baraona's vocal's. Franco Lomangino's flute playing is a particular highlight. Although Tirana's loss may be Zagreb's good fortune, this wonderful document only confirms what music aficionados in Tirana have known for years; namely that Amalia Baraona is a talent fully deserving of wider exposure and recognition. Highly recommended, the CD is available for download from <http://www.four-edition.com/site/2010/05/21/amalia-baraona-mulheres/> or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)