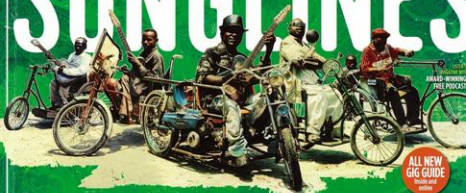


FREE CD

DISCOVER A WORLD OF MUSIC

SONGLINES



WIN A PRIZE AND
AN AWARD-WINNING
FREE PODCAST

ALL NEW
GIG GUIDE
Inside and
online

They live in Kinshasa zoo, travel on motorised wheelchair
and play music like no one else. They are...

STAFF BENDA BILILI

GREEN FOCUS:

Slow Music

You've heard of Slow Food, now taste the music

Is music killing our forests?

Musical instruments & endangered wood

Green Grooves

What the eco crowd are listening to



The Joyous Calypso Rose



Learn an instrument this summer



Explore the authentic music of Cairo



The importance of being archived

The Songlines Music Awards Nomination

Amadou & Mariam, Mariza, Buika, Toumani Diabate,
Bellowhead, Jah Wobble, Lila Downs and more

PLUS reports from:

Trinidad & Tobago, Bhutan, Ethiopia,
Greece, Morocco, India...



9 771466 811037

ISSN
1361-7025
www.songlines.co.uk

FEATURES

22

The Songlines Music Awards Nominations

Find out who has been nominated in the inaugural *Songlines Music Awards*.

24

Staff Benda Bilili

Hurting onto the world from their Kinshasa home, with a remarkable story and a winning sound, this is the band everyone's talking about.

30

Slow Music

The northern Italian Slow Food movement has been gaining converts the world over – now they launch *Slow Music*.

32

Calypso Rose

Trinidad & Tobago's queen of calypso releases her first international album at last.

36

Instruments and Wood

How the making of musical instruments is putting pressure on endangered woods.

38

Summer Schools

Reports from Labyrinth in Crete and the WOMAD Summer School in Bath.

42

Archive Recordings

The vital role of musical archives in preserving the cultures of the world.

32

Calypso Rose



Songlines Music Awards



22

Summer Schools



38

35

Underlying her innocent cry for help are suggestions concerning Ram Singh's long 'fire hose'

CONTENTS

Green features



36

Instruments and Wood



Staff Benda Bilili

24

SONGLINES

TOP
OF THE
WORLDThe editor's selection
of the top ten albums
reviewed in this issueCD
59

What's on your free CD:



1 Calypso Rose
'Israel by Bus' (3:59)
From the album *Calypso Rose* on World Village
Trinidad & Tobago's feisty queen of calypso rolls out her debut international release, full of vintage classics. See page 62



6 Ry-Co Jazz
'Koumbéle' (4:52)
From the album *Ry-Co Jazz* on Retroville
The golden era rumba and musika stars took up vibes from Congo to the Caribbean. See page 59



2 Staff Benda Bilili
'Je t'aime' (5:05)
From the album *Les Bébés* on Damned Discs
Can this collective of Kinshasa musicians in motorised wheelchairs be as big as Buena Vista? See page 61



7 Goran Bregović
'Jeremia' (3:07)
From the album *Akafu* on Water Records
The megastar of the Balkans charges his bandmates guitars for an alcohol-fuelled brass band bonanza. See page 67



17 Hippies
'Kaukapoti' (3:58)
From the album *17 Hippies* on Hipster Records
The eclectic and anarchic Berliners deliver a boisterous brew of folk-pop, klezmer and chanson. See page 70



8 Culture Musical Club
'Ni Yeye' (5:15)
From the album *Shimel* on World Village
Zanzibar's greatest taarab orchestra give another masterclass in the unique Swahili mix of African and Arabic music. See page 58



4 Lays Project
'Glorious Sun' (4:32)
From the album *Lays Project* on GabyGic
A project celebrating the music of the nations that suffered from the 2004 tsunami. See page 75



9 Di Naye Kapelye
'Baj Van Medley' (2:55)
From the album *Ishtakar* on Gypsy World
Fiddler and singer Bob Cohen's Budapest-based band keep the rural klezmer music of Eastern and Central Europe alive with the help of local Gypsy musicians. See page 69



5 Jon Boden
'When The Walls Come Tumbling Down' (5:12)
From the album *Songs From The Floodplain* on Navigator Records
Dystopian tales from an English folk multi-tasker. See page 66



10 Niraj Chag
'It's Life' (4:13)
From the album *The Last South* on Buzz-erk Records
Award-winning British Asian producer reworks traditional Asian forms and poetic texts as slick, cinematic pop. See page 81

Also on your CD -
five tracks from
David Buckland's Playlist

11 Ryuchi Sakamoto
'Diako' (3:43)
Exclusive preview track
From the forthcoming album *Out of Silence* on KID, available September 2009



12 Toumast
'Rimilano' (5:45)
From the album *Shahar* on Real World Records



13 Max Eastley
'Svalbo' (4:03)
From the album *Root* on Cape Town



14 Terje Isungset
'Ice Talks' (2:41)
From the album *Concert on Rite* on ECM



15 Shlomo
'Shlomo's Mouth' (6:39)
From a live recording, using one voice and no long pedal at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London 2007

New to Songlines?

Subscribe now and get a
TOP OF THE WORLD
album for free!

We're giving away a choice of Calypso Rose, Ry-Co Jazz or Goran Bregović's new album (to new subscribers only). See the flyer inside your convenience CD for details, visit www.songlines.co.uk/cd59 or call +44 (0)20 7371 2777

She may be pushing 70, but Tobago's calypso superstar is still going strong. Sue Steward catches up with Calypso Rose in Paris

PHOTOS JASON GARDNER

The Carnival Queen

McArtha Linda Sandy Lewis entered calypso's male-dominated world as a teenager in the Trinidad capital, Port of Spain, in the mid-1950s. Her irrepressible charisma and strong character enabled her to join that exclusive club, but no one anticipated how high she would fly. Her first composition, 'Glass Thief', written in 1955, at the age of 15, became a national hit a couple of years later, and half a century on, Calypso Rose as she became nicknamed, remains the unrivalled first lady of calypso. An international star, she has performed with Miriam Makeba, Tito Puente and Bob Marley, and every calypsonian of note from Lord Kitchener to the Mighty Sparrow. Her 1966 hit 'Tie in me Wire' has been translated into eight languages and is a calypso anthem. After suffering breast cancer in 1996, Rose returns with a new, eponymous album radiating both soulful joy and pensive wisdom.

Having spent the afternoon with the singer at her Paris hotel before an evening performance at a Pigalle club, I found her lively and openhearted, exuding the same infectious energy which contributed to her youthful.





Calypso Rose at home in
Queens, New York, August 2008



Classic old LP covers of Calypso Rose's back catalogue. We don't know what's on the cover of the middle one either...

queens were decidedly frowned upon. So in 1977, when Calypso Rose finally clinched victory at March Road, she was unfurled as the first calypso 'monarch'. 'They couldn't rob me any more,' she adds, 'but then I bow, and I say thank you, and I took my music abroad.' She moved to the US, where the islands' population was relocating massively, and that same year was invited to Belize, to perform for the Garifuna people in Dangriga near the late Andy Palacio's home. Working with the drummers and singers dancing the *punta* – which Palacio was making a pan-Caribbean dance hit – she began a long musical relationship with the community. Her hit song 'Leh We Punta' (Let's Go Punta) revealed that commitment to Garifuna music. In 1982, she was made an honorary citizen of Belize.

I point out that unlike most calypso and soca singers who limit their repertoires to those styles, Rose is a natural eclectic. She laughs and says: 'I've written calypso for all the Caribbean islands. When Byron Lee introduced carnival into Jamaica, I wrote 'Jammin' in Jamaica'; after my visit to St Lucia, I wrote 'St Lucia, The Land is Calling You to Come Home' [singing young St Lucians who'd moved abroad]. The new album is typically diverse and many songs are peppered with social and political comments, in keeping with calypso's historical function as an oral newsletter. Her late 80s response to guns on the streets of Brooklyn, 'Gun Play on the Parkway', served as an important comment on what she observed from her carnival float: 'Pun beatin' women jumpin' people walkin' and so are whinin' two million people/On the Parkway for Labour Day I hear the pop-a-pop/As people started scatter/I came out to have me fun/All day I was on the run/When the gun play...'. 'I saw blood and I saw bullets,' she says, 'and I wrote that calypso for the next year.'

Now, two decades later, a dominant theme in Rose's songs is Africa, the ancestral country she has yet to visit. Her grandmother was a slave brought from Guinea by boat, who died when Rose was seven. Amazingly, the singer remembers her kneeling at sunset towards the sea, praying to her ancestors. Her song 'Back to Africa' recalls her friendship with Miriam Makeba and their plans to visit Africa together. After the shock of breast cancer which created a long pause in her work, the new recording represents fresh energy and family roots are clearly now tugging at this extraordinary singer. Who knows what inspiring music will emerge from that visit. ●

ALBUM *Calypso Rose* is a *Top of the World* album and is reviewed in the American section CD 'Tinsel by Bus' is featured on the covermount CD

ONLINE Hear an excerpt from the new album via www.saxlines.co.uk/interactive/059

success. A natural storyteller, she unravelled her life in music through winding tales, then a few hours later, bounced on stage in bare feet and a flame-red and gold robe, greeting her cheering audience with a flow of songs off the album. 'Israel by Bus' and 'Back to Africa' – upbeat dance tunes which set the room moving – led to her variation on 'Summertime' and a re-working of 'Rhum and Coca-Cola', the calypso made world famous by Harry Belafonte in the 50s. Her hauntingly beautiful rendition of Dionne Warwick's 'I Say a Little Prayer' elevated the old theatre where Piaf once sang and revealed Rose's talent as a soul and gospel singer as well as a raunchy calypsonian.

Calypso Rose was born in 1940, on the island of Tobago. When she was nine, her mother sent her to neighbouring Trinidad to live with an aunt and uncle, for economic reasons. The painful separation was softened by her aunt's passion for music, and she recalls Rhum and Coca-Cola was a favourite – a song about the American GIs based on the island and drinking with local girls. By 1957, she premiered 'Glass Thief' at the popular Original Young Brigade Calypso Tent, a calypso inspired, she tells me, by an incident she'd witnessed in the market: 'I saw a guy snatch a pair of glasses off a lady's eyes and he start bullin' 'Tief! Tief! I come home and started writing', she says. 'Where I come from in Tobago, we're not accustomed to that, and I thought I better warn my Tobagonian brothers. So I sang 'Well, Tobagonian boys, stay in the island and raise your family...''

A few years later, *Fire in the Wire*, was even more successful – a typically compelling and cheeky story with witty dialogue, sharp observations and double entendre. An old woman sees her bamboo house catch fire and runs to her neighbour, Mr Ram Singh, shouting 'Fire! Fire!' But underlying her innocent cry for help are suggestions

concerning Ram Singh's long 'fire hose'. In contrast, the late 60s composition, 'No Madam' placed her in political waters with her criticism of the treatment of domestic servants in Trinidad: 'I saw what they were doing, I heard their cries, and I wrote about that,' she proclaims, grimly. The song itself twists from the boss' bullying to the maid's rebellion: 'No, Madam, you clean down the stairs/You empty the pot/You polish the floor/No, Madam, No Madam'.

An Italian journalist published the story back home and it raised a stink back in Trinidad. Dr Eric Williams, prime minister and leader of the People's National Movement, called a cabinet meeting. 'From there, the law was changed: domestic servants got a fare wage,' Rose says proudly.

Such international links boosted Calypso Rose's reputation and took her beyond calypso contexts. In 1972, the R&B singer and guitarist, Bonnie Raitt covered her 'Wah She Go Do' on her album, *Takin' My Time*. Meanwhile in Trinidad in 1975, Rose won the annual Carnival Road March contest with 'Do Dem Back' but was subsequently placed second to Lord Kitchener by the National Carnival Council. 'Because I am a woman,' the singer shouts. 'But every day there was a critical article in the papers.' In 1977, she replied with 'Give Me More Tempo', a calculated withdrawal from the capital to the rival calypso hotspot of San Fernando: 'where they have plenty tempo [music]...'

With T&T's independence from Britain in 1962, and the formation of a republic in the late 70s, references to kingdoms, kings and

In 1975, Rose won the annual Carnival Road March contest but was placed second to Lord Kitchener, 'because I am a woman!'



Calypso Rose Calypso Rose

World Village WVF674022

Full Price (U.S. only)

★★★★★

Grand dame of Caribbean calypso's dignified debut



'Calypsonians are the mouthpiece of the nation' declares Calypso Rose at the beginning of an enchanting version of Lord Invader's 1940s classic 'Whom and Coca-Cola. The luminescent to Trinidad's women 'working for the Yankee dollar' finishes a tour de force of a set – incredibly, it's the first by Rose to ever be released on an international label, and clearly proves that she's a music diva of the same high standing as Celia Cruz or Rita Marley.

The eponymously titled album combines songs composed by her and a few reimagines, such as Bart Bacharach's 'Say a Little Prayer', and 'Underneath the Mango Tree', written by Mooty Norrman and used in the 1958 James Bond movie *Dr. No*. Although Rose's version of the first is rather flat, in the second she performs magic, her warm, rich and reedy voice meltingly conveying the magnificent lyrics. Elsewhere, Rose gets vigorously into 'jump up' mode. The title of the song 'Tired by Bar' might be rather a tall order from downtown Port of Spain, but the song rocks along. 'Sweet Brown Sapper,' has the kind of saucy lyrics to raise a smile, while 'A Man is A Man' finds Rose telling her mother that she has no need to marry a barrister, a minister or a doctor because 'any man can give you satisfaction'. Calypso Rose's debut on the world stage may well have been a long time coming, but it's been worth the wait. Don't try to resist – get wiser'.

**TOP
OF THE
WORLD
ALBUM**



(Charles de Ledesma)



GET THIS ALBUM FREE! Yes, time subscribers can get Calypso Rose for free when subscribing to *Smashbox*. See [H&M](#) your account for details.