

# RICARDO LEMVO & MAKINA LOCA ISABELA

RELEASE DATE: 20 MARCH 2007

Ricardo Lemvo's mix of Cuban salsa and pan-African styles (soukous, Congo rumba) has been described by the *Los Angeles Times* as "seamless and infectious."

Born in Congo-Kinshasa of Angolan ancestry, Lemvo formed his band, Makina Loca, in 1990. He has toured extensively in Europe, Australia and Latin America, and has performed in some of the most prestigious venues in North America: The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Lincoln Center in New York City, Stern Grove Festival in San Francisco, Montreal Jazz Festival, and Mountain Stage in West Virginia, among others.

Lemvo's four CDs, *Tata Masamba*, *Mambo Yo Yo*, *São Salvador* and *Ay Valeria!*, have been enthusiastically acclaimed by both print and broadcast media worldwide. *The Beat* magazine named *Tata Masamba* the CD of the year for 1996. The *Miami Herald* called *Mambo Yo Yo* "a treasure trove." *São Salvador* reached number 2 on *World Music Charts Europe* for May 2000, and of *Ay Valeria!*, the *New York Post* described it as "celestial, highly idiosyncratic."

Lemvo has been featured on various national and international radio and television programs such as BBC Radio, Radio France Internationale, National Public Radio, CBS "Sunday Morning," the NBC "Today Show," and CNN's "World Beat." Lemvo has also been nominated for various awards including the California Music Awards and the *Los Angeles Weekly Music Awards*. The American World Music Awards voted Lemvo and his band Emerging Artist of 1998.

## 2007 NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

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& MAKINA LOCA  
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*Isabela* is the fifth album from Ricardo Lemvo, the Congo-born Angolan singer-composer, with his Los Angeles-based band Makina Loca.

Recorded in three countries (the US, Canada, and France), this seemingly effortless album is the product of much hard work and knowledge.

Its cosmopolitan bouquet of musical styles (including soukous, son, boogaloo, bolero, rumba-rock, Congolese rumba, and charanga-rap) is sung in six languages, each with its own distinct musicality.

Besides Portuguese, Kikongo, Spanish, Lingala, and Swahili, Lemvo learned to sing in Turkish for his version of Candan Erçetin's "Elbette," which he turns into a tango congo.

Invited stars include Congolese guitar legend Papa Noël (on four numbers, including the title song) and singers Wuta Mayi and Nyboma, and the Cuban Alfredo De La Fe on violin and cello. Arranging duties were likewise split between Congo (Bopol Mansiamina) and Cuba (Jesús A. Pérez "El Niño").

It all flows like one piece of music.

*Isabela's* repertoire ranges from '50s Congo classic "Lollobrigida" (written by guitarist Tino Baroza in honor of Italian movie star Gina Lollobrigida), to the album's centerpiece, "Serenata Angolana," a duet with Cape Verdean songstress Maria de Barros.

*O Angola, my beloved homeland*

*You will always live in my heart.*

— Ned Sublette

Author of *Cuba and Its Music:  
From the First Drums to the Mambo*