



'Japanese born but with a Brazilian Heart'

By [Grady Harp](#) HALL OF FAME - TOP 100 REVIEWER - VINE VOICE

A native of Tokyo, Japan, Yuko Ito has been performing publicly in a wide range of styles: pop, rock, R&B, jazz funk, gospel, free jazz and various forms of Brazilian music since high school. Her early musical career began when she founded the girl's rock band, Sissy Boy. Even with her early success in Japan, Yuko's musical vision was broad, which led her to make a move to New York City in 1994, where she could explore her musical ideas and vision. A vocal coach soon encouraged her to explore jazz and eventually this led to her formal studies, which included receiving a B.F.A degree from City College of New York in music (Jazz Vocal Performance, where she studied with Sheila Jordan). Still residing in New York, Ito has performed at many of the city's top venues.

The culmination of her experiences in multiple genres is what gives Ito her rebellious verve, along with her jazz phrasing. Having been lured by positive lyrics, unique beats and passionate movement, Ito incorporates a melodic structure to form a style that is uniquely hers; truly a mature songstress. Ito's passion for Brazilian music was the cornerstone of introduction to a keenly talented young woman from Japan, though born and raised in her native land has evolved into a born again Brazilian New Yorker, even her fellow native born Brazilian musician friends tough her Portuguese as being flawless and her ability to interpret the music unmatched and purely original. Ito's passion for the rich Brazilian musical tradition is evidenced by her all-star band, each are highly accomplished Brazilian and Latin Musicians and her intense focus on phrasing and diction is extremely authentic and pays homage to the tradition. Ito offers and highly engaging journey of cultures all firmly rooted in the Brazilian traditions, guaranteed to uplift the listener and absorb aficionados.

The ensemble is Yuko Ito - Vocals, Cidinho Teixeira, Piano and Accordion, Gustavo Amarante and Leco Reis, Bass, Mauricio Zottarelli on drums and Percussion, Oriente Lopez, flute, Adriano Santos, drums, Edgar DeAlmeida, guitar, and Aaron Heick, alto sax.

The tracks are as follows:

Mas Que Nada

Samba de Verão

Travessia

Sina

Batucada Surgiu

Guerrilla (Eu Não Sou Ninguém)

Eu Só Quero Um Xodó

O Cantador

Takeda No Komori-uta

Serrado

Listen to this little miracle of a collection and try to imagine Ito as Not being a native Brazilian. She has the music down to a seductive perfection.