

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Pianist & Composer

Isabel *Rato*

INSTRUMENT	GENRE	BASED IN	LATEST ALBUM
Piano	Jazz	Lisbon, Portugal	2024

PIANO — JAZZ

WATCH VIDEO

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ABOUT

Jazz, classical and Portuguese roots in harmony

Isabel Rato is a pianist, composer, arranger and producer whose work bridges **jazz**, classical music and Portuguese folk traditions with lyricism and emotional depth. She is considered one of the leading female figures in Portuguese jazz.

Her debut album, *Para Além da Curva da Estrada* (2016, Sintoma Records), won over critics and audiences. It was followed, on Nischo, by *Histórias do Céu e da Terra* (2019), *Luz* (2022) and *Vale das Flores* (2024) — all three picked by **jazz.pt** critics among the best Portuguese jazz albums of their year.



ISABEL RATO · PHOTO © CORTESIA DA ARTISTA

> *"Isabel Rato moves between jazz and the classical tradition with the elegance of someone walking on clouds of dreams."*
>
> — FERNANDO SOBRAL · JORNAL ECONÓMICO · 2022

ESML	2016	3	2024
Jazz Piano degree (Lisbon College of Music)	Debut album 'Para Além da Curva da Estrada'	Albums among the year's best for jazz.pt critics	'Vale das Flores' · 50 years of the April Revolution

PROJECTS

Projects and programmes



Quintet

PIANO, VOICE, SAXOPHONES, DOUBLE BASS AND DRUMS

Jazz, Portuguese song and tradition: the band behind Luz and Vale das Flores, from the Cairo Jazz Festival to jazzahead! in Bremen.

VIEW THE PROJECT EPK



VEIA

ELISA RODRIGUES (VOICE) × ISABEL RATO (PIANO)

Voice-and-piano duo with singer and composer Elisa Rodrigues since 2018: originals and reinterpretations; debut album in 2027.

VIEW THE PROJECT EPK

RECORDINGS



2024
Vale das Flores
50 years of the April Revolution



2022
Luz
Isabel Rato Quintet



2019
Histórias do Céu e da Terra



2016
Para Além da Curva da Estrada
Debut album

MULTIMEDIA









BIOGRAPHY

Isabel *Rato*

Vale das Flores celebrates the 50th anniversary of Portugal's April Revolution with songs by José Afonso, Sérgio Godinho and Pedro Abrunhosa alongside traditional tunes, and was highlighted by jazz.pt and the World Music Charts Europe. With her **Quintet**, Isabel Rato has played Ageas CoolJazz, Santa Casa Jazz Fest, Amadora Jazz, the Hot Clube de Portugal, the **Cairo Jazz Festival** (2024) and a **jazzahead!** Clubnight in Bremen (2026).

A Jazz Piano graduate of the Lisbon College of Music, she studied with **João Paulo Esteves da Silva** and attended masterclasses with John Taylor, Fred Hersch, Kevin Hays, Enrico Pieranunzi and Mário Laginha, among others. She has worked with João Barradas, João Mortágua, Desidério Lázaro, Sofia Vitória, Beatriz Nunes and Maria João; her albums also feature Ana Bacalhau, Cuca Roseta, Cristina Branco, Marta Pereira da Costa and the Quarteto Arabesco.

With singer **Elisa Rodrigues** she leads the duo **VEIA**, launched in October 2018, which has played the Galway Jazz Festival (Ireland), Caldas Nice Jazz and Évora JazzFest; the duo's debut album, a book-CD, is announced for March 2027.

Born in Lisbon in 1981, she began studying piano at the age of five. She teaches jazz and classical piano at several schools in the Lisbon area, including the Hot Clube de Portugal Jazz School.

MILESTONES

2016
Debut album 'Para Além da Curva da Estrada'

2018
VEIA duo with Elisa Rodrigues is born

2024
'Vale das Flores' · April Revolution at 50

2024
Quintet at the Cairo Jazz Festival, Egypt

2026
jazzahead! Clubnight, Bremen

LIVE

Stages and festivals

2026	**Bremen** jazzahead! Clubnight · Flux · Quintet	24 APR.
2026	**Santo André** Jazz AlémTejo Festival · VEIA	21 MAR.
2025	**Lisbon** Antena 2 concert · Liceu Camões Auditorium · Quintet	26 NOV.
2025	**Cascais** Ageas CoolJazz · Cascais Jazz Sessions · Quintet	17 JUL.
2024	**Cairo** Cairo Jazz Festival · Quintet	1 NOV.

ON STAGE AND RECORD WITH

Maria João · Mário Laginha · João Barradas · Elisa Rodrigues · Ana Bacalhau · Cuca Roseta · Cristina Branco · Marta Pereira da Costa

PRESS

What they wrote

> *She does not merely revisit tradition; she does so with originality, reaching into the past for ideas and turning them into something new.*

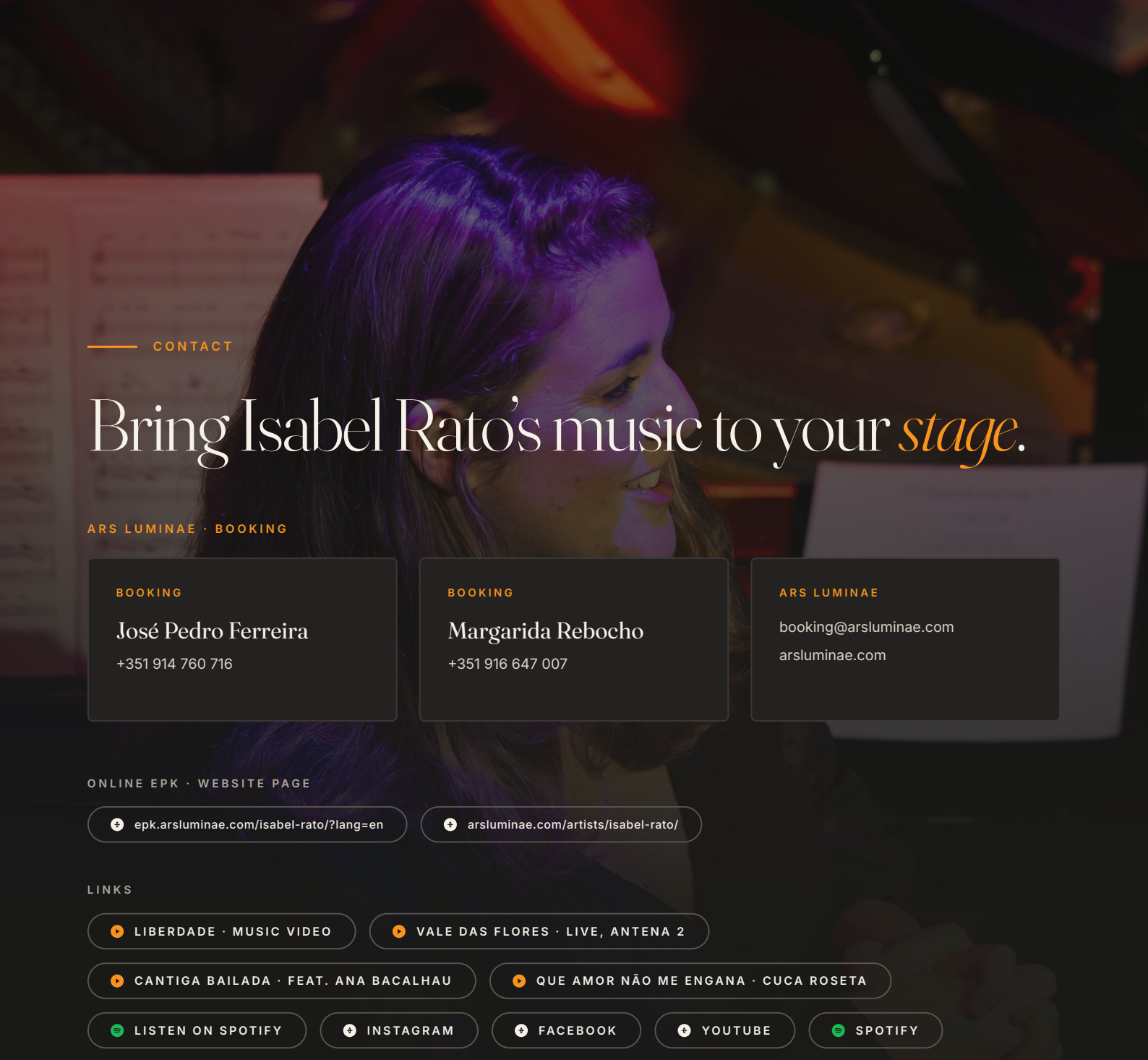
Não se limita a revisitar a tradição, fá-lo com originalidade, vai ao passado pegar em ideias para as transformar em algo novo.

NUNO CATARINO · PÚBLICO · 2022

> *With Vale das Flores, Isabel Rato reinforces the enduring meaning of these songs, adding her voice to the shared effort to blow away, like a chorus of Zephyrs, the dark clouds (...)*

Com "Vale das Flores", Isabel Rato reforça o sentido perene destas canções, juntando a sua voz ao esforço conjunto para, qual coro de Zéfiros, soprar para longe as nuvens negras (...)

ANTÓNIO BRANCO · JAZZ.PT · 2024



CONTACT

Bring Isabel Rato's music to your *stage*.

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- arsluminae.com/artists/isabel-rato/

LINKS

- LIBERDADE · MUSIC VIDEO
- VALE DAS FLORES · LIVE, ANTENA 2
- CANTIGA BAILADA · FEAT. ANA BACALHAU
- QUE AMOR NÃO ME ENGANA · CUCA ROSETA
- LISTEN ON SPOTIFY
- INSTAGRAM
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