



THE QUOTES:

"Maybe it's time for The Girl from Ipanema to step aside and make way for the girl from São Paulo. She goes by the name of CéU."
ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Passionate is a pretty accurate way to describe CéU's self-titled debut album... mixing a bit of Billie Holiday, along with Lauryn Hill and Ella Fitzgerald, the album's songs have been climbing the charts."
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"CéU bounds her musical references (soul, afrobeat, electro-jazz) with class and a voice with an incredible texture."
VIBRATIONS (FRANCE)

CéU

Just when you think that Brazil must surely have exhausted its supply of irresistibly jazzy, funky, sexy, soulful electro-pop singer-songwriters, Latin GRAMMY nominated CéU comes along and makes you think that maybe that particular well is bottomless after all.

Her full name is Maria do Céu Whitaker Poças, but she goes by the simpler moniker CéU. CéU means either "sky" or "heaven," depending on context, and either translation applies quite nicely in this case: think of her as "Sky" when you hear the soft blue clarity of her voice, or "Heaven" when one of her sweetly bubbling melodic hooks takes you by surprise and makes you shiver with delight. CéU's U.S. debut album was released on Six Degrees Records in association with Starbucks' Hear Music Debut CD Series in Spring 2007 at #1 on Billboard's World Music Chart, #1 on Billboard's Heatseekers (New Artist) Chart, and #57 on Billboard's Top 200.

She was born into a musical family in the artistically diverse city of São Paulo; her father, a locally renowned composer, arranger and musicologist, taught her at a young age to appreciate the music of Brazil's great classical composers. By age 15 she had decided to become a singer, and pursued music studies; trained on the violão (a nylon-stringed Brazilian guitar) and in music theory. She was performing onstage with major artists and exploring the repertoire of the marchinhas (turn-of-the-century carnival music) by her late teens. Soon after that she relocated temporarily to New York City, where she had a chance meeting with fellow Brazilian musician Antonio Pinto. Pinto, who produced CéU's song "Ave Cruz" is the composer of the musical score for two Oscar Nominated films, Central Station (1999) and City of God (2003.)

Following her stint in New York, she returned home to São Paulo, where the young up-and-comer fronted a samba funk outfit and then an electro-dance group and caught the attention of several major record labels before agreeing to join forces with Urban Jungle. Originally issued in 2005 on the São Paulo-based Urban Jungle label Jungle, CéU was picked up by Six Degrees when members of the staff heard the album and found themselves entranced by the warm, fresh sound of her voice.

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