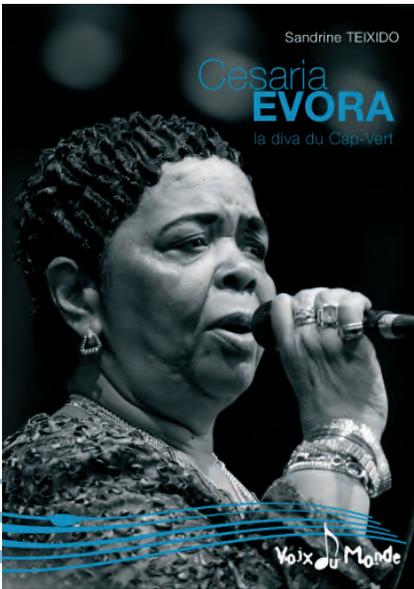


Cesaria **EVORA**,
the Diva from the Cape Verde Islands



by Sandrine TEIXIDO

About the Author.

*After graduating in anthropology, **Sandrine TEIXIDO** became a journalist specializing in Portuguese music, from Brazil and Cabo Verde in particular. She writes for magazines such as Vibrations, Mondomix and Nova among others.*

She is production manager for the Africolor Festival in Paris and is involved in the wide-ranging musical festival of Ile de France.

Cape Verde

Cesaria EVORA is a legend in her own time. She put her tiny country on the map, the Cape Verde islands off the coast of Western Africa. A true diva with a hoarse and deep voice, her life reads like a novel. She was a poor girl who first learned to sing in the orphanage choir. Her talent soon brought her fame locally as the “Queen of mornas”, a music much like the blues. “Cize” was often compared to Billie Holiday; a weakness for cognac and tobacco, a life spent singing in bars, a late success in middle age and an intact authenticity: such are the politically incorrect attributes of an exceptional singer lady today acclaimed by audiences the world over.

“Cize” Evora is still unchallenged as the best interpreter of the *morna* and *coladeira*. The craze for music from Cape Verde, rich in new talents, arose thanks to her. In this intimate biography, we tour the phases of the singer’s life, from the atmosphere of the bars of Mindelo, the bustling seaport, the challenges of a difficult life, and her efforts finally crowned with success on the stage of World Music. The author also brushes for us a panorama of Cape Verdean music, which has too long escaped attention in the West.

A series of biographies dedicated to the leading figures of World Music. The collection Voices of The World aims at acquainting the reader with the wealth of musical cultures our planet harbours. Each title focuses in depth on one particular artist, exploring all too often little known aspects of his or her life so as to reveal its trajectory.

These portraits provide rare and precious insights, especially as major artists are all prominent symbols of their countries. The books are colourful creations by experts with a passion and deep understanding developed over many years. The reader will gain a better understanding of the creative process of these artists through their cultural background, the events which shaped their lives, and the people whom they in turn influenced and worked with...

The purpose of this collection is to introduce the life and works of the most fascinating World Music artists to a wider public. This collection will be of interest well beyond the community of World Music enthusiasts, and awake an interest in everyone in wider musical horizons.

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