



# Eye for Talent, Inc.

The Best in World Music

Yamandu Costa  
CD Review – *Mafuá*  
Songlines – March 2009

Seven-string guitars are popular in Russian music and a staple of Western heavy metal; in Brazil, the seven-string violão de sete cordas is a nylon guitar that logically offers a greater musical range and the potential for new arrangements of classic pieces. In the hands of the 28-year-old guitarist and composer Yamandu Costa, all logic is lost in a flurry of breathtaking musicality. *Mafuá* is his first solo recording and it switches between samba, choro and tango with blistering dexterity, his fingers flying through scales and arpeggios with explosive speed.

It opens with the frenetically charismatic 'El Negro del Blanco', Costa's whistle matching the guitar note for note. There is an intimacy between player and instrument throughout this album that makes each track a piece of pure performance. On the title-track (one of only three tracks not composed by Costa) you can hear the extra depth of the lower string as Costa showcases the style of counterpoint and accompaniment that the violão de sete cordas allows. There's the raw 'Samba Pro Rafa', the heart-wrenching 'Zamba Tuerta' and the captivating 'Caminho de Luz' – all of which pay testament to a guitarist who looks set to become one of the leading lights in Brazilian music. This is an album of joyous virtuosity that should be a must-buy for anyone who loves the guitar.

Matt Swaine