

Layori “Origin”

It was on a Valentine’s day that **Layori** discovered her love – her love for great performances. She stood on the stage of the “Mayflower School”-auditorium in her domestic Nigeria to sing for three thousand of her fellow students and their relatives. “It was just overwhelming. It felt totally natural for me to stand up there on stage and perform.” She had trained her voice from her early childhood on, but she found out in that very moment that music would play the leading role in her life from now on.

With the first few bars of the blues-colored, folkloristic title “Dada”, sung in her mother tongue Yoruba, **Layori** pulls the listener into a sounduniverse where Afro, Pop, Soul and Jazz can communicate the easy way. What we hear is an airy, almost completely acoustic, calm music, that is simple, catchy but multilayered – music that is never dominant but always electrifying. It is sung by a woman that loves transparency as much as mystery, a woman that shows a surprising maturity for her age, a woman that is obviously in balance with herself. With her sensuous alto voice the singer is aiming directly at the hearts and souls of those who listen to her.

In **Wally Warning** the singer and songwriter had an important and experienced partner on her side while creating her debut album **Origin**.

He and **Layori** agreed, that the title **Origin** contained the message that the music should remain as natural, pure and genuine as possible. Two guitars, bass, percussion, background vocals, occasional horns and strings set the right frame for **Layori’s** voice. She sings in three languages (besides Yoruba it’s English and Spanish). One can’t resist her, whether she’s intoning the mantra-like “What Is Love” or she’s playing with the many shades of her splendid organ. It’s astounding how powerful and fragile she can sound at the same time. “Both comes from the challenges that you have to face when you travel the world constantly. The fragile has maybe to do with me being homesick, missing the protection and love of my family.”

“In a certain way **Origin** is like coming home. In all the years that I spent in different countries in the world, my African soul was always present. Never ever would I do something that is against my culture, my pride, my beliefs, my roots. With **Origin** I can now show my family: look, I’ve made something out of my life.