

SIGNAL to NOISE

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CONTINENTAL RIFFS

Peter Margasak travels the world in search of subversive sounds.

Lisbon's **Ana Moura** is one of the strongest figures in the ongoing fado revival and her latest album *Leva-Me Aos Fados* (World Village) reinforces the fact that her power comes largely from sticking with fundamentals, eschewing the pumped-up drama of Mariza and the impressive envelope-pushing of Cristina Branco. On the other hand, she focuses on new songs rather than trolling the genre's storied past. She's a remarkably expressive singer who chisels her melodies with exquisite precision and tonal purity, and the craft she brings to the tradition continues to obviate the need for novelty. All of the tracks feature the traditional accompaniment of acoustic guitar, Portuguese guitar, and bass, but on "Não é Um Fado Normal" ("This Isn't a Normal Fado") she's joined by drums and bagpipes.