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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

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RUTH OSMAN to appear next on SONGBIRDS...live at the AURA

Guyanese singer and flautist, **Ruth Osman**, will be the second songbird in the series **SONGBIRDS...live** at AURA Restaurant & Bar on Wednesday 2, September. Always creating opportunities for live performance with a difference, Production One Ltd. took a different turn from the proven and successful *Jazz Artists on the Greens*, to create an intimate series of shows focused on the female voice. **SONGBIRDS...live** is a new concert series featuring female Caribbean vocalists; a performance showcase featuring, on a regular basis, some of the most notable upcoming and unheralded female voices in contemporary music in Trinidad and Tobago with an ear turned to Jazz and World Music. Singing in sometimes new collaborations that offer just enough of the improvisatory surprise which is the hallmark of jazz, these smaller productions from Production One Ltd. serve as a platform for the recording of the performances with the ultimate reward being **The Best of SONGBIRDS...live** CD available at the end of the series.

Ruth Osman grew up listening to the jazz greats. “My father loves Sarah Vaughan, and Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald,” she says, “so we’d sit and listen to them and then he would talk about them as if they were old friends.” As she grew older, her list of favourites expanded to include Tracy Chapman, Nina Simone, Nnenna Freelon, and more recently, Chrisette Michelle and trumpeter Chris Botti. Over the years, Ruth’s passion for music led to her appearance in a variety of events—from the church stage to national and international concerts. “Church was where it all started,” she says. “That’s where I realized that I had a gift...something that could touch people.”

When her family moved to Dominica, Ruth studied theory, voice and flute at the Kairi School of Music. It was there that she was first exposed to musical productions. “Our flute teacher, Pearl Christian, was also the choir director. And she would do these phenomenal musicals every year. That’s where I really started to learn singing as a craft.” Her mastery of that craft led to her being invited to perform at Guyana’s inaugural music awards last year. Her performance, lauded by many as the best of the evening, received rave reviews from the critics.

Ruth currently resides in Trinidad. There, she has made full use of any opportunities to network and develop her music career, from performing with the jazz trio, Jacoustik, to working with a variety of musicians and bands. She recently performed at “Mama Dis Is Jazz”, “Gayap Jazz” and at R3 with



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Russell Leonce and Rizon, for which she garnered accolades for her work on vocals and flute. A writer by profession, Ruth also writes poetry. Her poems often become an intrinsic part of her performances, adding another dimension to her music. When asked what inspires her as an artist, she said, “It’s about expressing what it is to be human. I want to remind people of the fragility and beauty that is part of the human condition. I also want to show them who they could be.”

Caroline Mair debuted the **SONGBIRDS...live** series by Production One Ltd at AURA Restaurant on August 5. Caroline performed, for a sold out paying crowd, a set of both original and covers of ballads from the cannon of Broadway to Marley. No one can fault her for stage presence. Either you have it or not. Backed by Dean Williams (guitar) and Modupe Foalade Onilu (percussion), delivered. One reviewer said, “This individual voice that can both echo a remembered tone and sustain an original searing note has the potential to breach the boundaries of performance spaces globally.”

Tickets for **SONGBIRDS...live** are available at the AURABOX office, by calling 620-6920, or online at <http://songbirds.eventbrite.com> For more information and to listen to tracks by the artists visit the website, <http://www.songbirdslive.com>

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