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Laura Nyro and Nina Simone are high on singer/pianist Liane Carroll's hot favourites list, and her early live experiences included work with Trevor Watts' Moire Music, a UK world-jazz group that mixed free-improv with African, American and Latin American rhythm patterns. Instrumentalists aren't always big fans of singers, but many have admired Carroll, and even the urban scene has got the message through her work with drum'n'bass outfit London Elektric. In 2006, Carroll won both the Best Vocalist and Best Of Jazz categories at the BBC Jazz Awards, and her latest album, *Slow Down*, explores a more reflective, ballad-savouring aspect of her talents. The charismatic Carroll displays a lot more raw emotion than "coolness" usually welcomes, but there's never any doubt that it's real emotion, not a routine.