



ESTRELLA ACOSTA

Cuban vocalist Estrella Acosta is one of the most versatile Latin American singers living in Europe. Though Estrella has never stopped singing the folk songs of her motherland, she is equally at home embracing various Brazilian and jazz styles. With her relaxed phrasing and warm, earthy voice she brings a fresh, innovative approach to Cuban music

She has left a travel footprint that truly makes her a citizen of the world.

After completing a degree in cultural anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and studying vocal technique, she set out to pursue her musical dreams in a journey that took her to Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, New York City and, finally, Amsterdam, where she now resides.

Estrella has recorded four albums and a single for the label eStar. Her 1996 debut album of original music, *Navegando de la Habana a Rio*, won international acclaim. The second, *Alma Guajira - Cuban Country Songs* (2003), was nominated for an Edison (Dutch Grammy) and the third, *Esquina 25* (2013), earned plaudits as “one of the best recordings of Cuban music realized in Europe” (Luis Tamargo).

In October 2017 *Mujeres de Luna - Songs by Cuban Women Composers* was released, with special guests Orlando 'Maraca' Valle and Horacio 'El Negro' Hernández. This CD release was accompanied by a theater tour.

Estrella has been one of the featured artists in several albums. She was invited to participate bandoneon-player Carel Kraayenhof's project "Memorias de Cuba" which included a cd recording (Universal Records), and live concerts at Amsterdam's prestigious Concertgebouw with the Metropole Orchestra.

In 2015 she sang with an all star cast in a bilingual children's recording produced by Ben Gundersheimer (aka Mister.G) called 'Los Animales'. This cd won a Latin Grammy.

Her festival appearances include the North Sea Jazz Festival, Curaçao Jazz Festival, the Heineken Jazz Festival, Madison World Music Festival, World Music Chicago, Sunfest and Small Music Festival in Canada and Jazz Plaza Festival in Havana, Cuba. She also performed at renowned clubs like the BIMhuis (Amsterdam), SOB's (New York City) and Ronnie Scott's (London).

Estrella has performed with many of the world's great musicians, including Toninho Horta, Craig Handy, Edy Martinez, Ramon Valle and Jovino Santos Neto. In the Netherlands, she brings together a band of top international musicians who have participated in various projects. They present an original view of Cuban music in a wide spectrum of styles - son, bolero, rumba, guajira, trova, Afro-Cuban jazz and Lucumí chants, performed with plenty of room for creativity and improvisation, and with respect for the tradition.

The press about the new CD, *Mujeres de Luna*:

"...it is the sheer poetry of the music and the lyricism of the renditions by Estrella Acosta that capture the imagination...

a mesmeric array of beautifully crafted arrangements, and sensuousness in every lovingly caressed phrase of Mujeres de Luna. This is an album not to be missed by listeners of superbly performed music."

- Raul da Gama, Latin Jazz Network

"Mujeres de Luna is an album of intense and ethereal beauty that travels the roads of jazz and 'filin' in complicity with the cadence of the 'trova'."

- Carlos Olivares Baro - Razon, Mexico (13.12.2017)

"...the melodies are compelling, and dancing is also an option - all ingredients are present... for the album Acosta brought together a complete orchestra... still it is especially Acosta herself who shines "

- Jan Jasper Tamboer, Het Parool, Amsterdam

"Estrella Acosta has pulled it all together on this very special recording: heartfelt and unique vocal interpretations, an incredible team of musicians, and stunning arrangements. With warm strings, along with a burning rhythm section, this lush recording reflects a powerful emotional vision.

She has brought new life to many of Cuba's forgotten great women composers by uncovering many musical gems with a new and fresh approach.

I love this CD because it is full of thought, heart and joy."

- Jane Bunnnett, Canadian saxophonist, flutist and bandleader, a multiple Juno Award winner and Grammy nominee.