

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 idioms. With her warm earthy voice she creates an energetic yet intimate and personal style, rooted in the sounds of her native Cuba.

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

Estrella has been one of the featured artists in several albums by others. She was invited to participate in bandoneon-player Carel Kraayenhof's project *Memorias de Cuba* which included a cd for Universal Records and a concert with the Metropole Orchestra at Amsterdam's prestigious Concertgebouw. In 2015 she sang with an all star cast in a bilingual children's recording produced by Ben Gundersheimer (a.k.a. Mr. G) called *Los Animales*. This cd won a Latin Grammy.

Her festival appearances include the North Sea Jazz Festival, the Curaçao Jazz Festival, the Heineken Jazz Festival, the Madison World Music Festival, World Music Chicago, Sunfest and Small Music Festival in Canada and the 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 with her in various projects. Together 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, all performed with plenty of room for creativity and improvisation and with respect for the tradition.

In 2017 a new recording, *Women in Cuban Music*, featuring compositions by female composers, will be released, followed by a concert tour.

www.estar.nl

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