

Violetas



Saxophonist/Composer Patricia Zarate Perez blends modern jazz and Chilean popular song on her vibrant, lyrical debut album

Available now on iTunes via Cholo Music Records, Violetas features a stellar Pan-American ensemble featuring Grammy-winning pianist Danilo Pérez, bass greats John Patitucci and Ben Street, drummer Adam Cruz and Colombian vocalist Lucida Pulido

On her debut recording, *Violetas*, saxophonist and composer Patricia Zarate Perez explores the rich music and culture of her native Chile, while drawing inspiration from the sounds and personalities she's encountered around the world. Produced by GRAMMY® Award-winning pianist Danilo Pérez, the album showcases Zarate Perez's entrancing original compositions alongside reimagined versions of Chilean popular song, together offering a spirited take on the melding of modern jazz improvisation and Latin rhythms. Available now on iTunes via Cholo Music Records, *Violetas* replicates the Pan-American experience that has characterized Zarate Perez's journey through life and music, from her roots in Chile through her second home in Panama and her jazz education in the U.S. Recorded in New York, Massachusetts and Panama, the album brings together acclaimed jazz musicians and gifted artists from across Latin America.

At the core of the ensemble featured on *Violetas* is the acclaimed pianist Danilo Pérez, joined by his longstanding trio mates, bassist Ben Street and drummer Adam Cruz, whose enormous chemistry and telepathic communication links up perfectly with Zarate Perez's soulful saxophone (who shares her own special chemistry with the pianist, who also happens to be her husband). Bassist John Patitucci, Pérez's close collaborator in the iconic Wayne Shorter Quartet as well as in the Children of the Light trio, adds his virtuosic electric bass as a special guest. Colombian vocalist Lucia Pulido is featured throughout, singing with a deep understanding of the emotion of a lyric while fluidly interacting with the ensemble's harmonic intricacies. Dedicated to a vision of "Global Jazz" shared by her producer/pianist, Zarate Perez also invited a wealth of musicians from throughout the Americas to enrich the album with their skills and traditions. Thrilling performances can be heard from Detroit drummer Nate Winn, Peruvian percussionist Jorge Perez-Albela, Argentinian bassist Fernando Huergo, Venezuelan cuatro player Carlos Capacho, Panamanian rapper/violinist Joshue Ashby, and guitarist Claudio Ragazzi.

The album's title is as vibrant and evocative as the color that gives it its name, the shade of the beautiful Caribbean flowers that bloom in the saxophonist's adopted

home of Panama. The name is also shared by two of Zarate Perez's most important personal and musical inspirations: her mother, Violeta Diaz, and the legendary Chilean singer-songwriter Violeta Parra. The simple word's multi-dimensional meanings resonate in the songs' profound feeling and cultural imagery.

The album opens with "Ni Chicha Ni Limona," a Chilean standard written by one of the country's most influential songwriters, the revered Victor Jara. Arranged, as is the entire album, by Danilo Pérez, Zarate Perez's version of the song weaves Jara's melody into a brilliant tapestry that evokes a fleet turn from Fernando Huergo and a probing exploration by Zarate Perez, sparring with the pianist's sharp interjections. The title track, penned by Zarate Perez, conjures stunning hues in the mind's eye via its dazzling harmonies, which couch a lush vocal by Pulido as well as a heartrending solo by the leader.

Another original, "Cuequita Triste" could be easily mistaken for a time-tested folk tune, drawing on the tradition of Cueca, the folkloric music of Chile, while expanding it into more unexplored territories. The tense and urgent "Flaco" is dedicated to Zarate Perez's uncle, Isidro Miguel Pizarro Meniconi, who was detained and disappeared by the Pinochet Dictatorship on November 19th, 1974. The disruption and devastation of that regime and the wounds left on the country and its people are stirringly expressed – as are the strength and determination evidenced by their survival in its wake.

"Continental Cliff" pares the band down to a trio with Nate Winn and Patitucci, spotlighting Zarate Perez's eloquent melodic sense in a more spare, intimate setting over the buoyant groove of the taut rhythm section. The album concludes with "Sube a Nacer Conmigo Hermano," a classic song by Los Jaivas, an emblematic Chilean progressive folk-rock band of the 1970s. Zarate Perez decomposes Los Jaivas' original arrangement of a poem written by the great Pablo Neruda in 1950, taking a circuitous route to her proposition of a 21st century Chilean jazz.

Patricia Zarate Perez was born in Chile and graduated in 1999 from Berklee College of Music with a degree in Music Therapy. She later completed her Master's Degree in Jazz Studies at New York University and currently studies at the University of Massachusetts Doctoral program in Social Development and Global Inclusion. She started playing the saxophone at age 13 in her native country of Chile and has studied with such prominent jazz musicians as Jackie McLean and Jerry Bergonzi.

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