

ABOUT

Araya is a contemporary Latin American folkloric ensemble featuring classical voice, Venezuelan cuatro, cello, and clarinet. Their repertoire spans the early 1800s—late 1950s, from Brazilian Bossas to Mexican Sons, transporting audiences to the music's beautiful and tragically depicted scenes. Formed in the San Francisco Bay Area, they have performed throughout the United States and Europe, including at the International Clarinet Association's 2024 ClarinetFest® in Dublin, Ireland. Their new arrangements for the debut EP, *SOUNDS OF LATIN AMERICA*, were created by composer and conductor Manuel Hurtado Dueñez and directed by Keric Alvarez Zapata.

The EP features Bianca Catalán (voice), Dr. Sarah Jaegers (clarinet), and special guest musicians Casey Quon (cello) and Keric Alvarez Zapata (Venezuelan cuatro), with musical arrangements by Manuel Hurtado Dueñez. It was recorded at 25th Street Recording in Oakland, CA, with mixing and mastering by Danilo Álvarez and Karishma Kumar.



ARAYA



ARTIST BIOS



Bianca Catalán is the lead vocalist and artistic director of Araya. She draws on her classical vocal training with the Ina Chalis Ensemble at the Community Music Center while developing her own contemporary interpretation of Latin American folkloric music. Her work centers on bridging heritage, storytelling, and regional musical traditions through modern arrangements shaped by her distinctive vocal approach. She currently resides in Cork, Ireland, where she is completing an MA in Arts Management and Creative Producing at University College Cork before returning to the Bay Area.

Dr. Sarah Jaegers is an Albuquerque-based clarinetist and educator praised for her “rich and warm interpretations.” She performs with the Rhode Island Recording Ensemble (RIRE), the Latin quartet Araya, and the DesertLake Duo, and has appeared with ensembles including the New Mexico Philharmonic, Santa Fe Symphony and Opera, and Fresno Philharmonic. Sarah teaches applied clarinet at the University of New Mexico and maintains an active private studio. An advocate for new and underrepresented repertoire, she has commissioned several works, presented at major festivals such as ClarinetFest®, and toured throughout Europe. She holds a DMA from The Ohio State University, an MM from Michigan State University, and dual bachelor’s degrees from Iowa State University.



SOUNDS OF LATIN AMERICA

LATIN FOLKLORIC MUSIC • CHAMBER ENSEMBLE • WORLD MUSIC

Araya's debut EP, reimagines iconic folkloric and traditional songs from across the Latin American diaspora through intimate, cinematic arrangements that honor beloved classics while offering a fresh, chamber-influenced sound shaped by the ensemble's diverse musical backgrounds.

- 1. La Bikina** Beloved across Mexico, this waltz ranchero tells the story of the proud and sorrowful Bikina, and has become one of Araya's most cherished fan favorites for its sweeping emotion and cultural pride.
- 2. Tonada de Luna Llena** Inspired by Venezuela's pastoral work songs, our version deepens the original's voice-and-cuatro simplicity with cinematic cello textures, echoing the singer's dialogue with the moon as it watches over land, labor, and longing.
- 3. Barcelonesa** The album's sole instrumental, this Venezuelan waltz becomes a graceful dialogue between clarinet and cello, each voice weaving around the other in a tender, expressive dance.
- 4. Manhã de Carnaval** Debuted in the 1960 film Black Orpheus, this classic Brazilian bossa captures the radiant morning of Carnaval, and in our rendition, marks the moment Araya embraced the clarinet as a second voice, completing the ensemble's now-signature quartet sound.
- 5. Alfonsina y el Mar** This classic Argentinian zamba evokes the poet Alfonsina Storni's last steps toward the ocean, with the music illuminating her solitude as the sea receives her like a quiet, merciful companion.

RELEASE INFO

Artist Araya

Release Name *Sounds of Latin America*

Release Date February 1, 2026

Genre Latin American Folkloric Music / World Music

Track Name

1 La Bikina

2 Tonada de Luna Llena

Composer

Ruben Fuentes

Simón Díaz

Length

02:50

04:10

3 Barcelonesa	Enrique Hidalgo	04:54
4 Manhã de Carnaval	Luiz Bonfá	04:27
5 Alfonsina y el Mar	A. Ramírez & F. Luna	05:50

Bianca Catalán Vocalist (tracks 1, 2, 4, 5)

Sarah Korneisel Jaegers Clarinetist (tracks 3, 4, 5)

Keric Alvarez Zapata Venezuelan Cuatrista (all tracks)

Casey Quon Cellist (all tracks)

Music Arrangements by Manuel Hurtado Dueñez (all tracks)

Recorded at 25th Street Recording, Oakland CA, November 2022 & August 2025

Recording Engineer: Karishma Kumar

Mixed and Mastered by Danilo Álvarez (tracks 1, 2, 3, 4), Karishma Kumar (track 5)

Music Director: Keric Alvarez Zapata

Produced by Bianca Catalán

Artwork Cover: Bianca Catalán

Photographer: Alexandra Urbina

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/araya_sounds

YouTube https://youtube.com/@araya_sounds

SoundCloud <https://on.soundcloud.com/naXbVSoqddtIbHMA9L>

Website <https://sekjaegers.com/sounds-of-latin-america>