

# PEPE RIVERO & ÁNGELA CERVANTES



OLASY ARENAS

## Line Up Stage

Pepe Rivero - piano/arrangements  
Ángela Cervantes - vocals  
Ariel Bringuez - tenor & soprano saxs  
Reimier Elizarde "El Negrón" - bass  
Michael Olivera - drums

## Contact

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A delicate and elegant project, led by the Cuban pianist and composer, Pepe Rivero and the Ibizan singer Ángela Cervantes, with which they commemorate the legacy of the renowned Puerto Rican artist, Sylvia Rexach. She was a singer, composer, comedy scriptwriter and poet, to whom they pay tribute by presenting in a new way and with a new voice her sensitive work as well as her intense but short life through a selection of her songs. Rexach's music evokes times that straddled the First World War and the bohemian nights of the 50s, in a world that did not see the full value of her art until after her passing.

A woman and artist ahead of her time, who passed away at the young age of 39, Sylvia Rexach received the full recognition that her work deserved, after her death. In 2001, she was posthumously inducted into the International Latin Music Hall of Fame and in 2014, the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico included her in the group of illustrious women presented at the "Plaza en Honor a la Mujer Puertorriqueña" in San Juan. Her compositions have been recorded by internationally renowned artists, such as Marco Antonio Muñoz, Lucho Gatica, and Linda Rondstat.

Olas y Arenas was conceived by José E. Cruz, from Jazz/Latino, inc., an organization based in Albany, New York, whose goal is to re-present and celebrate eleven of Rexach's musical pearls through the arrangements and direction of the Cuban pianist Pepe Rivero and his Latin / jazz trio. The Ibizan singer, Ángela Cervantes, gives a new voice to the melodies and poems of the Puerto Rican composer. The project also features saxophonists Miguel Zenón and Ariel Bringuez.

Pepe Rivero: "The existence and work of this Puerto Rican artist is highly deserving of as many tributes as anyone can imagine, so that the world will remember and never forget her name."

Ángela Cervantes: "It overwhelms me to think that I discovered Sylvia Rexach at the same age with which she left this dimension, to get closer to the stars. The songs we have selected for this new album are now skin-deep in me and they are there to stay."  
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José E. Cruz: "What Sylvia Rexach offers is a life told through universal musical poetry, elegant, simple, sensitive, transparent, deeply expressive and full of truth, and that is why it is necessary to disseminate her work as broadly as possible."

## BIOGRAPHYS

### Pepe Rivero - piano/arrangements

Pianist and composer Pepe Rivero is part of a "new generation" of Cuban musicians who have burst onto the international jazz scene. After finishing his piano studies in Havana, where he received classical training, his vocation led him to jazz.

Pepe has worked with other groups in internationally renowned jazz festivals: Montreaux Jazz Festival, Jazz Middelheim, Denmark, Tokyo, France, Germany, Australia, Washington, New Haven and New York, among others.

He has worked and collaborated with artists such as Paquito D'Rivera, David Murray, Omara Portuondo, Jerry González, Isaac Delgado, Javier Colina, Perico Sambeat, Bobby Martínez, Alain Pérez, Gerardo Nuñez, La Barbería del Sur, Diego "El Cigala";

Pepe Rivero accompanied Celia Cruz in her concerts as well as in recording sessions and from the start he was considered an essential component of the band. His work was not limited to executing the repertoire of the legendary interpreter; he also provided arrangements. Coming from an accredited family of musicians, Pepe Rivero is a faithful exponent of this style of pianistic expression that he continues to enrich today. He has the virtue of extrapolating a rhythm and articulating a new body around it, generating a differentiated sound structure, which gives rise to new variations.

As a Latin jazz pianist, Rivero almost always starts from the structure of some unique genre of Cuban music, such as the guaguancó, the cha-cha-chá, the guajira, the conga, etc., and he incorporates around it a series of interwoven and complex harmonies that he draws from his extensive repertoire as a jazz player and composer with a classical heritage. The music that Pepe Rivero composes, which also integrates other genres within Latin jazz, such as flamenco, bossa-nova and classical jazz itself, is capable of creating different atmospheres in the same composition, moving with such skill from one to another that he gives the listener the experience of music as only one: indivisible and universal.



## Ángela Cervantes - voz

Born in Ibiza, she began her musical learning of classical choir, song and piano on the island.

In 1999 she moved to Barcelona to study at the Aula de Música Moderna y Jazz, and at the same time she studied acting, dance and body structuring.

She develops her musical training with teachers such as: Deborah J. Carter, Carme Canela, Raquel Lojendio, Ivana Kotov, Shamanka Phoenix, Emmanuel Djob, Federico Rey, Pat Metheny, Perico Sambeat, Sheila Jordan, Paul Farrington, Bernardo Sasseti ...

She was a member of the gospel/world music group "The Black White Xperience"; (Montpellier, France), directed by Emmanuel Djob (Cameroon), making tours throughout Europe.

Since 2005 she lives in Madrid, where she collaborates or is part of projects in a multitude of genres, from the Spanish dance company Antonio Najarro (BNE), Nach, José Manuel Zapata, Jorge Drexler, Marta Sánchez (piano), Iván Melón Lewis, Pepe Rivero Big Band, Ariel Bringuez, Daniel Oyarzabal ...

In 2012, Angela presented her debut album, "En esta orilla de Drexler", where she revisits the music of the Uruguayan singer-songwriter Jorge Drexler, fusing it with the jazz trio formed by Pablo Martín- Caminero, Daniel Oyarzabal, and Borja Barrueta, with José Luis Crespo on the sound. Jorge Drexler

himself collaborates on the album, singing a duet with Ángela. The album was selected in the 3rd edition of the Circuito Estatal de Músicas Populares GPS (Girando Por Salas) for the promotion of emerging music and artists, promoted by the Institute of Performing Arts and Music of Spain INAEM and the MECD.

In 2014, as a duo with Madrid guitarist Chema Saiz, she released her second album, "Remembering Ella Fitzgerald and Joe Pass", edited and produced by Blue Music.

In 2016 she published her third album "Camino a Santa Clara... Por 50 años más con Los Fakires", released under the Cezanne Producciones label, where Ángela travels to the center of the island of

Cuba, to record with the legendary Cuban vieja trova band, Los Fakires, who had celebrated their 50th

anniversary as a group in 2014. The album has in its libretto a review by the pianist and composer,

founder of the band Irakere and nine times Grammy-winner, Chucho Valdés.

Between 2013 and 2017, Angela toured the world with the British band Brit Floyd, the official Pink Floyd tribute band, where she performed Clare Torry's legendary and virtuoso solo The Great Gig in The Sky.



## Ariel Bringuez - tenor sax

Saxophonist, teacher, composer and arranger Ariel Bringuez graduated from the Universidad de las Artes de la Habana (Cuba). He has taught classes at Escuela Nacional de Arte de Cuba, specializing in jazz and Latin music improvisation, has offered composition and improvisation workshops in jazz throughout the entire island of Cuba as well as in Quito, Ecuador, in music conservatories in Edmonton, Calgary, and at the Medicine Hat in Canada.



He has played in the famous Latin jazz band Maraca y Otra Visión, directed by flutist Orlando Valle, with which for four years he participated in important jazz festivals such as the Marciac Jazz Festival in France, the Aspen Jazz Festival in the United States and in major clubs like New Morning in Paris or Yoshi's club in California, among many others. In 2007 he recorded his first album, Raíces en Colores, with the Colibrí record label, which won the Opera Prima award at Cubadisco 2009.

In 2004 and 2005, Brínguez won First Prize in the International JoJazz Competition in the categories of interpretation and composition. He has played in the Latin Big Band of the North American saxophonist David Murray with whom he has toured throughout Europe and he recorded a live album at the Blue Note in Milan, Italy, which will be released under the JustinTime label.

In 2008, he played at the Madrid Jazz Festival with the Son de Limón band, a Cuban-flamenco all-star group under the direction of Javier Limón. That same year he played at the Zaragoza Festival with the Moisés Sánchez quartet. He participated in the Varadero Jam Session and in the Santiago de los Caballeros Festival in the Dominican Republic with Chucho Valdés and his Irakere New Conception project.

Bringuez has collaborated on albums such as "Descarga Total" and "Tremenda Rumba" by Orlando Maraca Valle, which was nominated for a Latin Grammy; also in "From Harlem to Madrid", an album by Miguel Angel Chastang, "Todo es posible", an album by Cuban bassist Yelsy Heredia, in the fifth edition of the album "Pequejazz", in "My Feeling" by Sexto Sentido, "El Tren de los Momentos" by Alejandro Sanz, "Trapiche" by Alejandro Vargas, which won the 2008 Cubadisco Award; and in "A Diario" - Telmarys, and "Revoluxion" - X Alfonso, composer of the soundtrack for the movie "Habana Blues".

Ariel Bringuez has played with renowned musicians such as Tata Güines, Changuito Quintana, Larry Willis, Horacio "El Negro", Andy Narell, Simply Red, X Alfonso, Frank Lacy, Perico Sambeat, Javier Colina, Ivan "Melón" Lewis, Alain Pérez, Pepe Rivero, Grupo Síntesis, Ojos de Brujo, Interactive, the Big Band from Escuela Creativa, Román Filiú, Roberto Occhipinti, Hilario Durán, Chucho Valdés ...

## **Reinier Elizarde, "El Negrón" - bass -**

Elizarde studied at the National School of Art in Havana in 1997. He began his professional career a year later as a member of several Jazz orchestras such as Irakere, under the direction of Chucho Valdés, and Maraca y Otra Visión, under the direction of Orlando Valle (Maraca), among others with which he participates in prestigious Jazz festivals in the United States, Europe, and Canada.

In 2001 he enrolled in Havana's Instituto Superior de Arte from which he graduated as a licensed instrumentalist and double bass teacher. For several years he participated in the competition for young jazz players Jojazz and was part of the line up of musicians at various Havana Jazz festivals. He has recorded albums and shared the stage with musicians such as Michel Legrand, Chucho Valdés, Jerry González, Quincy Jones, Alfredo Rodríguez Trío, Javier Limón, David Murray Cuban Ensemble, Paquito D'Rivera, Concha Buika, Doug Hammond, and Avishai Cohen (trumpet), among others.



## **Michael Olivera - drums**

The life of drummer, percussionist and producer Michael Olivera García has been tied to music since the early age of ten. He began to play classical percussion at the Escuela Vocacional del Arte (EVA) "in his hometown of Santa Clara, Cuba. Then he made his way to the Escuela Nacional del Arte.

Along with musicians of his generation such as Ariel Bringuez, Reinier Elizarde "El negrón", Jorge Vistel, Maikel Vistel, Luis Deniz, who shared hours of study and research with him, Olivera began to develop a unique and particular way of conceiving his instrument and music itself, leading him to adopt an innovative approach to accompaniment and improvisation.

He has played and recorded with a wide range of musicians such as Síntesis, Pablo Martín Caminero, Esperanza Spalding, Roman Filiú, Marcos Zusano, José Luis Quintana (Changuito), Alfredo Rodríguez, Tomatito, Sting, Susana Raya, Ivan Melón Lewis, Albert Vila, Eme Alfonso, Ariel Bringuez, and the Orquesta Sinfónica del Valles, among others.

