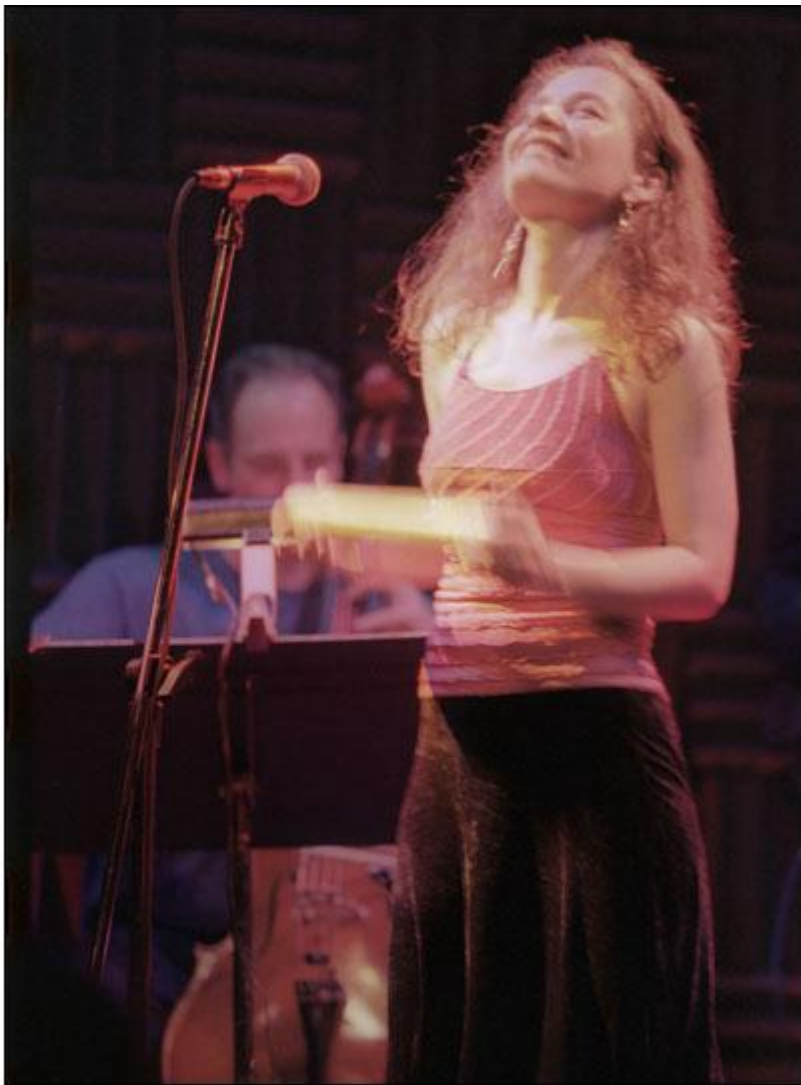


Lucia Pulido

CD Review

Latin Jazz Network



Lucia Pulido - Luna Menguante (Waning Moon)
Adventure Music, 2008
By Raul d'Gama Rose

Of all the vocalists in the world of music, especially those that practice the ancient, dying art of singing a story - not merely narrating - but telling it as griots do only a handful inhabit an atmosphere so rarified that they would qualify for canonization. If such sainthood was possible then Abbey Lincoln and Sheila Jordan would have been anointed a while ago. So would Sussan Deyhim, the Farsi singer of Sufi music, the Ethiopian singer, Ejigayehu "Gigi" Shibabaw, Ernie and Mariyam Tollar, Maria Bethania and Nana Caymmi from Brasil... and the reigning griot princess would, of course, be Lucia Pulido from Colombia.

Of all of these vocalists, Lucia Pulido's is the probably most arresting and sublime artistry. She has the most bewitching voice that can swirl from ebullient and festive to an elementally sad lament. So great is her control over the vocal dynamic that Pulido can summon sudden changes in power and density, by gathering her vocal chords and pouring liquefied dialogues with musicians and instruments. She is able to take command and consume a lyric

and if she so pleases and the song demands, set it free to flutter into the ether to echo interminably until it pierces the heart like a perfectly-aimed arrow.

This recording, *Luna Menguante/Waning Moon* is a breathtaking showcase of this otherworldly talent. It gathers together music from the folkloric traditions of the Colombian Caribbean, its Pacific Coast and the Eastern Plains. There are twelve songs rendered in an utterly ancient yet modern context with such brilliance that each seizes the senses and it is impossible to extract oneself from the lyric, the manner in which the song is vocalized and the dynamic sound canvas that she is able to conjure up. Pulido inhabits

the music with body and soul. She alone commands what it will do to the senses - all six of them, which are at once her prisoner until the song becomes the epiphany.

Although each of the songs are exquisitely complete there is something extraordinarily magical with the ones she sings with the accompaniment of Stomu Takeishi's bass. "I've No One To Love Me," "Full Moon Song" and "Funeral Song" are exemplary in style, interplay with the bass and the power of voice over lyric. But is the 0.27 second, solo-voiced "Cattleherding Song" that will be best remembered for its power and solitary splendor. But then the other tracks are no less unforgettable... And the magic of Lucia Pulido's voice continues to haunt long after the echoes of the last notes have died in the future.

This is an extraordinary record. Although many musicians may have attempted to bring the beauty of Latin American folkloric beauty to life, few artists are likely to have such a lasting impact as Lucia Pulido's *Luna Menguante/Waning Moon*. Perhaps with the possible exception of Gigi's *Abyssinia Infinite*, Sussan Deyhim's *Madman of God*, Maria Bethania's *As Cancoes Que Voce Para Mim*, Ernie Tollar and Mariyam Tollar's work on Michael Occhipinti's *Sicilian Jazz Project* and Abbey Lincoln's *Abbey Sings Abbey*. But Pulido's may be better than them all.

Tracks: El Rey Del Rio (The River King); Yo no Tengo Quien me Quiera (I've No One To Love Me); Canoa Ranchaa (The Thatch-roofed Canoe); Tonada De Luna Llena (Full Moon Song); Maria Que Iba en el Mar (Maria, Breaking the Waves); Dejela Llorar (Let Her Cry); Canto de Vaqueria (Cattleherding Song); Las Cuatro Palomas (The Four Doves); Zafra de Entierro/Grito de Monte (Funeral Song {Zafra}/Mountain Cry); Soplaviento (Blow Wind); Mi Mama me ha Dicho (My Mother Told Me); Canto de Velorio (Funeral Song).

Personnel: Lucia Pulido: Voice, maraca, guaca, cuatro; Sebastian Cruz: guitar, maraca, cymbals; Adam Kolker: clarinets, flute; Stomu Takeishi: bass; Ted Poor: drums, tambora. With Special Guests: Rafi Malkiel: trombone, euphonium (Bombardino); Diego Obregon: cununo (drum).

Lucia Pulido on the web: www.luciapulido.com

Original: http://www.latinjazznet.com/reviews/lucia_pulido/index.htm