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ANNETTE A. AGUILAR & STRINGBEANS
Special Friends

1999 - Eagle Seeks Salmon Productions

Produced by Annette A. Aguilar

Reviewed by Tony Robleto

Born in San Francisco, CA (daughter of Nicaraguan immigrants), Annette A. Aguilar is a multi-talented artist who began playing music at the age of 11. She's a versatile percussionist and composer, recording artist, arranger, and producer. Her list of credits and professional experiences are as amazing as numerous. She's been living in New York, where she put together the Latin jazz group "StringBeans" back in 1992.

An independent production released in 1999, "Special Friends" is the first recording of the group. It presents two original compositions: the percussive theme "Rumba" -composed by Annette- and "Stringbeans," a beautiful melody penned by guitarist Dave Moreno. The rest of the themes give us an overview of the richness and diversity of the Latin-American and Afro-American musical spectrum, including classic songs **Moliendo Café** (Hugo Blanco), **Berimbau** (Badden Powell & Vinicius de Moraes), **Wachi Wara** (from Chano Pozo and Dizzy Gillespie's collaborations) and **Well You Needn't** (Thelonius Monk). I like the inclusion of the concert harp and violin -with their sweet, folksy sound- in some of the tunes. The variety of percussion instruments played by Annette is also remarkable. An interesting exploration-combination of traditional and contemporaneous rhythms and jazz...

- Annette A. Aguilar** - percussion, conga, pandeiro, cuica, marimba, güiro, berimbau, repinique, timpani gongs, drums (on track 10) and vocals
- Eddie Bobé** - vocals, güiro, percussion (tracks 2, 3, 9) agogo (10)
- Vince Cherico** - drums, surdo (track 10)
- Sean Conly** - contrabass
- Keith Crupi** - surdo gongs percussion (track 10)
- Sue Hadjopoulos** - vocals, güiro (tracks 2, 3, 9), cowbells percussion (10)
- Michael Hinton** - timpani percussion (track 10)
- Lewis Khan** - violin (tracks 8, 9, 10)
- Barbara Merjan** - surdo percussion (track 10)
- Dave Moreno** - guitar, guitar solo (tracks 3, 10)
- Tiberio Nascimento** - guitar (tracks 3, 10), additional solo (track 3)
- Steve Sandberg** - piano
- Rob Thomas** - violin (except on tracks 8, 9, 10)
- Ellen M. Uryevick** - concert harp, percussion (1, 4, 5, 6, 9,10), vocals (2, 3)
- Troy Winker** - contrabass (tracks 2, 7; bass melody on 7)



1. Moliendo Café [Listen](#)
2. Wachi Wara [Listen](#)
3. Berimbau [Listen](#)
4. Dolphin Dance
5. Rumba [Listen](#)
6. Well You Needn't
7. Bachianas Brasileiras #5
8. Stringbeans [Listen](#)
9. Plenas [Listen](#)
10. Chega de Saudade



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