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Jane Bunnett - Alma de Santiago

Flutist and alto-sax player Jane Bunnett has had an ongoing love affair with the music of Cuba for over 15 years. "I've always been drawn to music that's enriched my life," explains Jane, "but I never realized how deep the connection with Cuban music would go. I'm tied to Cuba."

Posted on September 2, 2001

Initially trained as a classical pianist and clarinetist, Jane switched gears in 1978 after hearing bass player Charles Mingus perform live. Other key influences include John Coltrane, Don Pullen and other artists "who were very much in the jazz tradition but were open to different sound possibilities." Studying under saxophonist Steve Lacy and pianist Barry Harris further inspired Jane to investigate uncharted musical territory.

Her recordings have consistently received critical acclaim. She is the recipient of a Juno award, Canada's equivalent to the Grammy award. Her wide-ranging body of work spans the musical spectrum and demonstrates in no uncertain terms that Jane is an artist who relishes pushing the musical envelope.

Her current recording focuses on the music of Santiago de Cuba, the island's second largest city. Jane joins forces with the likes of the cutting-edge Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet, Heeresmusikkorps 9 (a German 60 - piece brass band recruited at the last minute by Larry Cramer) the sizzling percussion group La Conga de Los Hoyos and keepers of the traditional son, Los Jubilados.

Jane's unusual alliances breathe new life into Cuban and jazz standards such as "Almendra" (the most recorded danzon of all-time) and Charlie Parker's "Donna Lee;" "Mambo Shin Shin" has a decidedly Asian flair. The grand finale is a fusion of jazz, rumba, the soulful improvisations of Eduardo "Tiburón" Morales (of Son 14) and driving conga (comparsa/carnival) rhythms.

The players are by and large featured guests, with the exception of pianist Hilario Durán, Roberto Occhipinti (bass) and trumpet player Larry Cramer (Bunnett's husband), who are members of "The Spirits of Havana" band. Guests include vocalist Eduardo "Tiburón" Morales, pianists David Virelles and Geovanis Alcántara, Carlos Thomas on trumpet and Fernando de Maso 'Bebe' on tres to name but a few.

Jane Bunnett is a free spirit who defies convention by reinventing herself with every recording. Expect the unexpected from Jane Bunnett and friends.

Review by Thomas Peña



2001 Connector Music
EMI Music Canada

Tracks: (click on titles to listen)

1. **Funky Mambo** - Mambo (The Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet)
2. **Son Santiaguero** - Son (Los Jubilados De Santiago De Cuba)
3. **Almendra** - Afro Jazz (The Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet)
4. **Jane And Los Hoyos** - Conga (Jazz Saxophone Quartet & Conga De Los Hoyos)
5. **La Comparsa** - Bolero (The Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet)
6. **Camaroncito Seco** - Son (Los Jubilados De Santiago De Cuba)
7. **Lagrimas Negras** - Bolero/Son
8. **Donna Lee** - Bebop/Conga (Jazz Saxophone Quartet & Conga De Los Hoyos)
9. **Mambo Shin Shin** - Mambo (The Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet)
10. **Quien Eres Tu** - Son (Los Jubilados De Santiago De Cuba)
11. **Alma De Santiago** - Ballad/Afro Cuban Jazz/Conga



Credits:

Musical Director: Larry Cramer
Produced by: Detlef Engelhard
Co-Produced by: Larry Cramer

Jane Bunnett: Flute and soprano sax
Larry Cramer: Trumpet & flugelhorn
Carlos Thomas: Trumpet
Geovanis Alcántara: Piano
David Virelles: Piano
Roberto Occhipinti: Bass
Wilfrido Fuentes Céspedes: Congas
Los Jubilados De Santiago De Cuba: Vocals
La Conga De Los Hoyos De Santiago de Cuba: Conga parts (38 percussionists)
The Santiago Jazz Saxophone Quartet: Saxophones
Juan Chacón González: Soprano sax
Julio César González Simón: Alto sax
Rey Amaury Burgos Delis: Tenor sax
Oscar Gálan Ruíz: Bariton sax
Fernando De Maso 'Bebe': Tres
Eduardo Tiburón Morales: Vocals

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