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- [NEWS](#)
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- [INTERVIEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
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- [LINKS](#)

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MARIA OCHOA Y CORAZON DE SON
Asi Quiero Vivir (Like This I Want to Live)

2000 Blue Jackel Entertainment
Produced by Jorge L. Pujals

Reviewed by Danilo Navas

Thanks to Blue Jackel, "La Dama de la Música Campesina," sonera María Ochoa has recorded her first CD. This is the "Heart and Soul" of Santiago de Cuba, a true document-tribute to one of the most popular and representative genres of the Cuban musical tradition.

Cuban Son has played an important role in the development of the Afro-Cuban idiom. This is no Latin jazz recording, but it's closely related to it. These are some of the roots from where the branches of the "big tree" have emerged. This music has two elements associated with jazz: improvisation and soul. They were definitely present throughout the process of creation of this CD, according to Jack O'Neil, owner of Blue Jackel. We have no doubt about it. These sones, guarachas, guajiras... are beautifully interpreted by Maria Ochoa and her group.

Master sonero Elíades Ochoa -Maria's brother- makes a special guest appearance on two tracks in this recording.

- María Ochoa** - lead vocals
- Rey Cabrera Castellanos** - tres
- Vincente machado Elías** - guitar
- Alexis Rojas Montero** - bass, coros, arranger
- Joaquín Emilio Solórzano Benítez** - congas, bongos, timbales, bells
- Ismael Borges Torres** - maracas, güiro and coros
- Eduardo Rosario Vega** - coros
- Enrique Navarro Acosta** - flute
- Elíades Ochoa** - guitar on track 4 (El Reto) and track 7 (Como Estoy Sufriendo)



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