

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Dom La Nena – Cantando EP

In the wake of the release of her acclaimed second full length album, *Soyo*, and in between her many live dates around the world, Brazilian born, Parisian resident, **Dom La Nena** has recorded a beautiful new EP of cover versions of some of her favorite songs.

Dom explains the inspirations behind the **Cantando EP** and why she felt compelled to record these particular songs from this diverse group of global composers:

I am a composer, although sometimes my desire to sing the songs of other artists is strong. These creative impulses often inspire me to record cover versions. I actually perform some of the songs chosen for the "**Cantando**" EP in my live concert set, others I only sing at home. All of the songs selected for this EP are long time favorites of mine, many of which I have enjoyed since I was a child. With these four songs, I wanted to achieve a variety of moods, languages, atmospheres, time periods, and revisit my musical roots.

I approached the arrangements of these recordings with the intention of keeping things simple, a minimalist vision, placing the focus on the lyrics and the melodies. This is why I only used my cello as accompaniment. Additionally, I found **Maxime Le Guil** to be one of the best sound engineers with whom I have ever worked. His delicate and insightful touch was extremely important to the creation of each arrangement.

"**Felicidade**," from Brazilian composer **Lupicinio Rodrigues**, reminds me of my childhood. It is one of the first songs I learned to play. "Felicidade" means "happiness". I have a strong sense of contentment whenever I hear or perform this song. I think Lupicinio makes me feel so happy because she transports me back to my hometown of Porto Alegre (Lupicinio was also from there), back to my family roots. Suddenly, I am back in the school choir, singing this song with my best childhood friends. Recording this song preserves these wonderful feelings and honors my origins.

Chilean composer and musical pioneer **Violeta Parra** is one of my biggest musical references and inspirations. She was an extraordinary woman, a Latino-American innovator. "**Gracias a la Vida**" will always be a part of my life. It is a song that is a

part of the musical and cultural heritage of every Latino-American. I remember passionately singing this song during my teenage years while in Buenos Aires.

When I arrived in Paris for my studies, I was 18 years old, and listening non-stop to **Beirut's** first album, "**The Gulag Orkestar.**" I don't know why but I always found Brazilian influences within the song "Scenic World," almost like a little Samba. Perhaps I felt this way because I was far from my country, and was sensitive to every little detail of life that might remind me of Brazil, making me feel closer to home. When recording this song, I wanted to finally create the little Samba that grew from my imagination over the years.

"**Les Vieux,**" by Belgian singer/songwriter **Jacques Brel** is my mother's favorite song. She was the one who introduced me to Brel's music during my childhood in Brazil before I arrived in France. It was with this song that I became familiar with the French language.

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