

Carolina Calvache

Colombia: musician

Object: song lyric and poem

*Hay días en que somos tan móviles, tan móviles
Como las leves briznas al viento y al azar
Tal vez bajo otro cielo la gloria nos sonría La vida es
clara, undívaga y abierta como un mar.
-Porfi rio Barba Jacob, "Canción de la vida
profunda" (Spanish)*

*[There are days when we're so variable, so variable, /
As the light blade of grass to the wind and chance. /
Maybe glory smiles at us under other skies, / For life
is clear, billowy, and open like the ocean.]*

I was born in Cali, in the southwest of Colombia, so my culture is a little bit Afro-Colombian and Andean. I am influenced by the pasillos and bambucos with a 3/4 and 6/8 feel that come from Europe and Africa. I was born in the tradition of the guitarra with trios and waltzes. I studied classical music in the conservatory of my city, but many kinds of music influenced me, especially the salsa big band led by my mentor, Jaime Henao. He told me to listen to the words of the song "Consideración" by Rubén Blades. They say, "You have to imagine that there is something else you can do, you have to believe." It became part of me. Every word is so powerful.

One day, feeling lonely, sad, and thoughtful in my apartment in Queens, I called my dad. He would recite poems, and he said, "Remember that poem by [Colombian poet] Porfi rio Barba, 'La vida profunda'? One day you are happy, the next day you are sad, but that is life. Why don't you write music to this poem?" So I went on the piano and it was just magic. I think this was the beginning of my Poems & Strings project—because I have always been surrounded by poetry.

Sometimes I like to play music for people who are not musicians. If they like it and the melody is good, then I feel that it is going to be beautiful. Sometimes musicians want this crazy advanced thing, but that doesn't always work for the heart. So when I need music for the heart, I call my parents.



Whatever you do is going to be unique because it comes from you. When you come from another country, you show all of the mix that is in you.

Bio:

Carolina Calvache was born in Cali, Colombia. After attending music school at the University of North Texas, she settled in NY. In 2011, she performed at the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival and at the Kennedy Center in DC. In 2014, she released her debut recording, *Sotareño*, an album of instrumental pieces of the jazz tradition that relate to her roots in Colombia. *Sotareño* features noted collaborators from the NY jazz scene, including saxophonist Jaleel Shaw, trumpeter Michael Rodriguez, bassist Hans Glawischnig, and drummers Ludwig Afonso and Grammy-award-winner Antonio Sanchez. The album has been distributed internationally to critical acclaim. She is the first Colombian to join the roster of artists on Sunnyside Records. She performs in two ensembles: the Carolina Calvache Quartet and Poems & Strings, an ensemble which blends classical influences and poetry.