

ACT

Daniel García Trio

Vía de la Plata
ACT 9936-2

Release date: 24. September 2021

Madrid-based pianist Daniel Garcia carries within him a deep sense of the history that has made him. This is not least because he was born and grew up in Salamanca, a city steeped in history, with several important archaeological sites. In the centuries ever since the middle ages, student priests have walked in their flowing robes along the Calle Compañía, a street in the centre of the city shadowed by tall baroque buildings. The city was also one of the main stopovers on the Vía de la Plata ('the silver way'), a Roman route from North to South of the Iberian peninsula.

Clear, thoughtful and self-aware when he speaks, Garcia has both an understanding and a passion for what that ancient silver thread through his country means: the Vía de la Plata gave the peninsula its main artery. It also allowed Spain to come together for the first time, to define itself. Spain exists as a melting pot of different cultures, with influences Celtic and Nordic, from the Eastern Mediterranean and Africa, and from the Americas too. Vía de la Plata is a living symbol of how "all of this melts together in Spain," as Garcia explains. And that – musically – is what he has achieved here.

The pianist's awareness of these different cultures which have formed Spain is everywhere in this album: the guest artists on the album represent musical heritages from different points of the compass.

Trumpet star Ibrahim Maalouf, born in Beirut, performs on two tracks, the reflective opener, Manuel de Falla's "Canción del fuego fatuo" (song of the will-o'-the-wisp), and on "Silk Road", a tantalising glimpse further East. Charismatic clarinetist Anat Cohen, raised in Israel, now based in the Americas, makes her debut on ACT with this album. She produces wonderful emotion and a flickeringly delicate final cadenza on "Pai Lan", a tune dedicated to Garcia's wife, the title of the tune being the name by which she (Belén) was known as when she lived in China.

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Reinier "El Negrón"
Michael Olivera

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Another guest on the album is fellow Spaniard, guitarist Gerardo Núñez. He and Garcia are equally fascinated by the links between Flamenco and jazz. In this, their first co-operation here they show a natural empathy, notably in "Calima" named after the wind that carries sandstorms from the Sahara. Garcia's fellow trio members – Reinier Elizarde (bass), Michael Olivera (drums) – are from Cuba. Garcia met them on the scene in Madrid. All three are in their mid-thirties, and are close friends both on and off stage.

Garcia is a passionate advocate for Salamanca's musical heritage. The title track "Vía de la Plata", with its intoxicating echoes of both Ravel and the Cameroonian coupé-décalé has Garcia and Anat Cohen trading fragments of melodies from the charrada, a centuries-old Salamanca peasant dance, with everything fitting together miraculously and seamlessly.

It is now a decade since Daniel Garcia won prizes as a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and received teaching and mentoring from Danilo Pérez. Garcia remembers the great Panamanian pianist encouraging him to go deeper into the music of his home country: "You should do the music you feel inside. This is not just what you do, this is YOU!" It is as if that advice has never gone away...

In "Vía de la Plata", Daniel Garcia has not just dug deep into his heritage as man and musician, and understood truths about it. He has also found ways to express these through the emotions: deeply, convincingly and fully in this very fine album.

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01 Canción del fuego fatuo (Manuel de Falla) **3:15**

feat. Ibrahim Maalouf

02 Calle Compañía (Daniel García Diego) **5:01**

feat. Gerardo Núñez

03 La leyenda del tiempo (Federico García Lorca /

Ricardo Pachón Capitán) **5:22** feat. Anat Cohen

04 Spring of Life (Daniel García Diego) **3:37**

05 The Silk Road (Daniel García Diego) **7:19**

feat. Ibrahim Maalouf

06 Pai Lan (Daniel García Diego) **5:35**

feat. Anat Cohen

07 Volar (Paco de Lucía) **4:06**

08 Vía de la Plata (Daniel García Diego) **4:58**

feat. Anat Cohen

09 Mar de la tranquilidad (Daniel García Diego) **4:51**

10 Calima (Gerardo Núñez) **4:53** feat. Gerardo Núñez

All arrangements by Daniel García Diego except Calima,
by Gerardo Núñez

Produced by the artist

Executive Producer: Siggie Loch

Cover art by Tal R: Fugl, 1995

by courtesy of Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin

Daniel García piano, Fender Rhodes & synths

Reinier Elizarde "El Negrón" acoustic bass

Michael Olivera drums

Guests:

Ibrahim Maalouf trumpet

Gerardo Núñez guitar

Anat Cohen clarinet

Recorded by Shayan Fathi at Camaleón Music Studio, Madrid, Spain. Ibrahim Maalouf recorded by Oscar Ferran at Studio Diasporas, Ivry-Sur-Seine, France. Anat Cohen recorded at Paraiso Recording Studio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Mixed and mastered by Shayan Fathi. Piano technician: David Izquierdo

Photo by Uli Fild

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Daniel Garcia Trio on ACT:

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