

Vida

OMARA





OMARA PORTUONDO *VIDA*

The legendary Omara Portuondo is soul touching as ever on her latest album VIDA. Wonderfully produced by the Grammy Nominated singer Gaby Moreno, with songs carefully selected together with her son, Ariel Jimenez. VIDA features an impressive line up of some of Latin Americas most emblematic artists, singing alongside the Cuban "Novia del Feeling".

VIDA is an album destined to become a classic!

01. **Bolero a la vida feat. Gaby Moreno** (04:26)
02. **Silencio feat. Andy Montañez** (04:30)
03. **Lo que me queda por vivir feat. Raphael y Orquesta Failde** (04:21)
04. **Duele feat. Gonzalo Rubalcaba** (03:04)
05. **Como la cigarra feat. Susana Baca** (03:42)
06. **Me toca feat. Carlos Rivera** (03:14)
07. **Se feliz feat. Keb' Mo'** (03:14)
08. **Now** (04:44)
09. **Honrar la vida feat. Rubén Blades** (04:01)
10. **Gracias a la vida feat. Natalia Lafourcade** (05:32)

Producer Ariel Jiménez Portuondo
Recording assistant Edian Correa
Production assistants Rossio Jimenez & Yodelys Pupo
Omara Portuondo vocal director Pedro Pablo Cruz
Mixed by Orestes Aguila
CD Mastered by Orestes Aguila
Vinyl Mastered by Tom Leader
Post Co Produced by Carolina Vallejo

Creative Producer Gaby Moreno
Executive Producer Ariel Jiménez Portuondo
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VIDA is the latest album release by Omara Portuondo, the grand *Cuban Lady of Feeling*.

In 1997, at the age of 67, Omara became The Diva of Buena Vista Social Club, crowning her fame after half a century of a huge national and international solo career. Omara won her first Latin Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Tropical Album along with a Latin Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. Among numerous awards, Omara has received three Grammy Award nominations in 2019, and in 2021, Omara was awarded with the Gold Medal for Merit in Fine Arts by the Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sports, in a ceremony presided over by the King and Queen of Spain, and then she won the prestigious Songlines Pioneer Award for her life long contribution to Cuban music and culture.

At the age of 90, Omara found her self stuck in Havana due to the pandemic, and the busy lady, like everyone else, had to put the tours on hold. Known for her compassion and her sense of humanity, Omara naturally chose to express herself through music in those significant times of human history. Omara has so much love to give and with her remendous energy, she invited life long friends and colleagues to participate in the long distance project, a way to keep each other close. Omara's son, Ariel Jiménez Portuondo, who has been taking care of Omara's career and her well-being for the past two decades, organised the recordings, well knowing his mothers need of action. Ariel found the perfect artistic producer, the recently Grammy nominated Guatemalan singer-song writer, Gaby Moreno, who has a similar soft and kind personality as Omara.

This album is a tribute to Omara's musical legacy. On "VIDA" Omara sings together with a stellar line up of legendary singers. Anyone who has loved Cuban and Latin music of the last 50 years will recognise the beauty of the timeless songs. "VIDA" reflects Omara's thoughts and feelings during this heavy period, as well as being a general homage to life. Like so many others, she found herself mourning dear friends lost to the pandemic. The ballads "Silencio" and "Duele" reflect her 'melancolía'. Besides Covid, the year 2020 brought to the surface another pandemic: the one of systemic racism and violence. Unfortunately the murder of George Floyd was just reflecting that what has been a reality for black people in the US since the times of slavery. "I was very sad and upset by the murder of George Floyd. I told myself, it is time to sing "Now" again!", Omara explains, and by this song, she elegantly show her protest in support of BLM. The song was originally song by Lena Horne in 1963, and in the 70'es, Omara made it famous in Cuba.

Deep inside Omara's heart, there's always joy and optimism, surplus and gratitude for what became her destiny as a singer, as an artist, as a woman, as a human. Gaby Moreno's "Bolero a la Vida", got them a Latin Grammy Nomination, "Honrar la Vida" sung beautifully together with Ruben Blades, "Se Feliz" with Keb' Mo' and "Gracias a la vida" with Natalia Lafourcade, all reflect Omara's eternal positive spirit. "Con 2 que se quieran", sung together with Amaury Pérez and Alexander Abreu, is an explosion of a party to leave you with a smile, dancing down your road of life.

Carolina Vallejo, One World Records, May 12, 2023

VIDA es el último lanzamiento discográfico de Omara Portuondo, *la gran Dama Cubana del Sentimiento*.

En 1997, a la edad de 67 años, Omara se convirtió en La Diva del Buena Vista Social Club, coronando su fama tras medio siglo de una enorme carrera en solitario nacional e internacional. Omara ganó su primer Premio Grammy Latino al Mejor Álbum Tropical Contemporáneo junto con un Premio Grammy Latino a la Trayectoria en 2009. Recibió tres nominaciones a los Premios Grammy en 2019, y en 2021, Omara fue galardonada con la Medalla de Oro al Mérito en las Bellas Artes por el Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte de España, en una ceremonia presidida por los Reyes de España, y luego ganó el prestigioso Premio Pionero Songlines por su contribución de toda la vida a la música y la cultura cubanas.

A los 90 años, Omara se encontró atrapada en La Habana debido a la pandemia, y la ocupada dama, como todo el mundo, tuvo que aparcar las giras. Conocida por su compasión y su sentido de la humanidad, Omara eligió naturalmente expresarse a través de la música en esos momentos tan significativos de la historia de la humanidad. Omara tiene mucho amor que dar y, con su tremenda energía, invitó a amigos y colegas de toda la vida a participar en el proyecto de larga distancia, una forma de mantenerse cerca unos de otros. El hijo de Omara, Ariel Jiménez Portuondo, que lleva dos décadas ocupándose de la carrera de Omara y de su bienestar, organizó las grabaciones, concededor de la necesidad de acción de su madre. Ariel encontró a la productora artística perfecta, la cantautora guatemalteca recientemente nominada a los Grammy, Gaby Moreno, que tiene una personalidad suave y amable similar a la de Omara.

Este álbum es un homenaje al legado musical de Omara. En "VIDA", Omara canta junto a un elenco estelar de cantantes legendarios. Cualquiera que haya amado la música cubana y latina de los últimos 50 años reconocerá la belleza de las canciones intemporales. "VIDA" refleja los pensamientos y sentimientos de Omara durante este duro periodo, además de ser un homenaje general a la vida. Como tantos otros, Omara lloró la pérdida de amigos queridos a causa de la pandemia. Las baladas "Silencio" y "Duele" reflejan su 'melancolía'. Además del Covid, el año 2020 hizo aflorar otra pandemia: la del racismo y la violencia sistémicos. Desgraciadamente, el asesinato de George Floyd no hizo más que reflejar lo que ha sido una realidad para los negros en Estados Unidos desde los tiempos de la esclavitud. "Me sentí muy triste y afectado por el asesinato de George Floyd. Me dije a mí misma que ya era hora de volver a cantar "Now""", explica Omara, que con esta canción muestra con elegancia su protesta en apoyo de BLM. La canción fue compuesta originalmente por Lena Horne en 1963, y en los años 70, Omara la hizo famosa en Cuba.

En el fondo del corazón de Omara, siempre hay alegría y optimismo, superávit y gratitud por lo que se convirtió en su destino como cantante, como artista, como mujer, como ser humano. El "Bolero a la Vida" de Gaby Moreno, le valió una nominación a los Grammy Latinos, "Honrar la Vida" cantada maravillosamente junto a Ruben Blades, "Se Feliz" con Keb' Mo' y "Gracias a la vida" con Natalia Lafourcade, todas reflejan el eterno espíritu positivo de Omara. "Con 2 que se quieran", cantada junto a Amaury Pérez y Alexander Abreu, es una explosión de fiesta para dejarte con una sonrisa, bailando por el camino de la vida.

Carolina Vallejo, One World Records, Mayo 12, 2023

01. Bolero A La Vida

feat. Gaby Moreno

(Gaby Moreno & Santiago Larramendi
– Lil Sparrow Music)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Gaby Moreno

Guitar: Gaby Moreno

Guitar (nylon): David Garza

Requinto: Jose "Pepe" Carlos

Venezuelan cuatro: Jorge Glem

Piano: Larry Goldings

Bass: David Piltch

Percussion: Sebastian Aymanns

Produced by Gaby Moreno

02. Silencio

feat. Andy Montañez

(Rafael Hernández – Peer International Corp.)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Andy Montañez

Piano: Larry Goldings

Bass: David Piltch

Arp: Celso Duarte

Guitar: David Garza

Drums: Sebastian Aymanns

Strings (violin, viola & cello): Cuarteto Presto

Percussion: Andrés Coayo and Jorge Coayo

String arrangements by Patrick Warren

Produced by Gaby Moreno

03. Lo Que Me Queda Por Vivir

feat. Raphael

(Alberto Vera - Sabor y Ritmo Ediciones Musicales)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Raphael

Flute: Ethiel Failde

Keyboards: José Antonio González Font

Orchestra "Failde": Manuel Alejandro Acosta

Hernández, Adrián Peña, Rey Manuel Silveira,

Lucio Carriera & Andy Cantera

Strings: Cuarteto Presto

Percussion: Andrés Coayo & Jorge Coayo

Arranged by José Antonio González Font

Produced by Ethiel Failde & Pedro Pablo Cruz

04. Duele

feat. Gonzalo Rubalcaba

(Giraldo Piloto y Alberto Vera –
Sabor y Ritmo Ediciones Musicales)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo

Piano: Gonzalo Rubalcaba

Produced by Gonzalo Rubalcaba

05. Como La Cigarra

feat. Susana Baca

(Maria Elena Walsh – Lagos Editorial. SADAIC)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Susana Baca

Electric, acoustic & gizmotron guitars: Mason Stoops

Electric guitar: Gaby Moreno

Piano, bass, melotrón, vibrafono & perc:

Sergio Mendoza

Trumpets: Jacob Valenzuela & Sergio Mendoza

Produced by Gaby Moreno

06. Me Toca

feat. Carlos Rivera

(Alexis Puentes – SOCAN/BMI)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Carlos Rivera

Acoustic guitar, double bass, güiro and

backing vocals: Alexis Puentes

Arranged by Alex Cuba

Produced by Alex Cuba

07. Se Feliz

feat. Keb' Mo'

(Descemer Bueno – Sony Music Publishing)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo

Acoustic and Wurlitzer guitar: Gaby Moreno

Electric guitar: Keb' Mo'

Pedal Steel: Drew Taubenfeld

Piano: David Garza

Bass: Simon Kirk

Percussion: Andrés Coayo & Jorge Coayo

Produced by Gaby Moreno

08. **Now**

(Jule Styne, Adolph Green & Betty Comden – ASCAP)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo

Piano: Larry Goldings

Guitar: Anthony Wilson

Bass: David Piltch

Drums: Sebastian Aymanns

Trombone: Elizabeth Lea

Trumpet: Mark Pende

Produced by Gaby Moreno

09. **Honrar La Vida**

feat. Rubén Blades

(Eladia Blázquez - SADAIC)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Rubén Blades

Guitar: Anthony Wilson

Violins: Eric Gorfain & Daphne Chen

Viola: Leah Katz

Cello: Vanessa Freebairn-Smith

String arrangements by Patrick Warren

Produced by Gaby Moreno

10. **Gracias A La Vida**

feat. Natalia Lafourcade

(Violeta Parra Sandoval – Warner Chappell Music Argentina)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo & Natalia Lafourcade

Quenas & zampoñas: Rodrigo Sosa

Electric and acoustic guitar: Héctor Quintana

Electric & acoustic guitar, charango: Elmer Ferrer

Charango & Ukelele: Natalia Lafourcade

Keyboards: Jorge Luis Largarza

Arranged by Jorge Luis Largarza Pérez

Produced by Orestes Aguila & Rodrigo Sosa

11. **Con 2 Que Se Quieran**

feat. Amaury Pérez & Alexander Abreu

(Amaury Pérez – Peer Music Spain)

Vocals: Omara Portuondo,

Amaury Pérez & Alexander Abreu

Piano: Rolando Luna

Bass: Roberto Vasquez

Drums: Rodney Barreto

Congas & minor percussion: Tomas “El Panga” Ramos

Trumpet: Alexander Abreu

Trombone: Amaury Pérez Rodríguez

Sax: Juan Manuel Ceruto

Choir: Gabriel Rodriguez Duconger

& Ruben Rodriguez Duconger

Produced by Amaury Pérez – Peer Music Spain

Omara Portuondo recorded by Orestes Aguila

at Omara’s Studio (Havana, Cuba)

Raphael recorded by Camilo Aristizabal

at PKO Studio (Madrid, Spain)

Gaby Moreno recorded by Sebastian Aymans (US)

Carlos Rivera recorded by Edson R. Heredia

at Estudio 12 (México)

Andy Montañez recorded by Ana Laura Vilaragut

Keb’ Mo’ recorded at Keb’ Mo’ studio

Susana Baca recorded by Oscar Huaranga

at Bambu Records Studio

Natalia Lafourcade recorded by Alan Ortiz

at Mini Studio (México)

& quenas and zampoñas recorded by Gonzalo Bernal

Rubén Blades recorded by Ignacio Molino

at Estudio Flux (NY, US)

Amaury Perez & Alexander Abreu recorded by

Orestes Aguila at Abdala Studios (Havana, Cuba)

Raphael appears by courtesy of The Boy of Stage

Carlos Rivera appears courtesy of Sony Music

Entertainment México SA de CV

Keb Mo’ appears courtesy of Concord Records

Artwork Ricardo Monnar Lay Out Carolina Vallejo





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FEAT.GABY MORENO
02. **SILENCIO** 04:30
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05. **COMO LA CIGARRA** 03:42
FEAT.SUSANA BACA
06. **ME TOCA** 03:14
FEAT.CARLOS RIVERA
07. **SE FELIZ** 03:14
FEAT.KEB' MO'
08. **NOW** 04:44
09. **HONRAR LA VIDA** 04:01
FEAT.RUBÉN BLADES
10. **GRACIAS A LA VIDA** 05:32
FEAT.NATALIA LAFOURCADE
11. **CON 2 QUE SE QUIERAN** 05:32
FEAT.AMAURY PÉREZ Y ALEXANDER ABREU

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