

Edith Tamayo

Patita Salada

CD, released friday d. 17-09-2010 from Snail Records

★★★★★ 5 stars (out of 6)

Captivating songbird lifts off

It's been a pleasure to follow Edith Tamayo the last year. At Womex in Seville in 2008 the Mexican singer was part of the Danish delegation. And when last year the fair moved to Copenhagen she signed the international contract with Dutch Snail Records. And now the CD Patita Salada is released. And it has really been worth the wait.

Edith Tamayo starting point was the port and seaside resort of Mazatlan in the state of Sinaloa on the Pacific, where she grew up, although her roots are nearer the foothills of the mountains further inland. An upbringing with a strong social consciousness, and with both legends and superstition, and not least the local music. Early on, she had an awesome voice with a rare purity, and as a young girl she won singing competitions on TV, before she received a scholarship and as a 17-year-old entered the Music & Art Academy in Mexico City and sang all over the country. Yet she wanted to go to Europe and ended up in Sweden where she studied classical singing before she again returned home and worked in the Opera in the capital. Until she again went to Scandinavia and again expanded her studies. She now lives in Nørrebro.

Edith Tamayo is gifted with a voice with an amazing purity. She has over the past years built up a band and repertoire of both her own compositions, and those of legendary Mexican composers like Lorenzo Barcelata Castro and with detours to Peru and Cuba. But her voice not even for one moment loses its unique identity.

Actually, Castro's famous El Cascabel is sung entirely seductively by Edith, while the chorus of men answers, reminiscent of the hottest Cuban Campesino moments with Eliades Ochoa. Where she holds the voice with a proud and superior singing lecture, where every right crack in her voice brings the entire atmosphere. As the previous song, Parabienes is sung a cappella by a singer who knows her metier to the fingertips and shows it all.

It is a singer on a very high level and with a personal expression that here debuts very convincingly. Adding to the quality of the record is the Argentine-born Roberto Ameris and Chilean Cesar Peña, who for years have lived in Sweden and play an awesome guitar and charango, and the two percussionists accompanied by the amazing bass player from Cuba, Yasser Pino, ensure that Edith Tamayo gets the right musical counterplay. And when she herself can actually compose songs as for instance the title song, it cannot go wrong.

It is a fantastic album that grows and grows each time you hear it. Competent and captivating.

Torben Holleufer, GAFFA, september 2010

Direct link (in danish): <http://gaffa.dk/anmeldelse/43004>

