

Oscar Perez Nuevo Comienzo

Afropean Affair

Chandra Records | CHR 8094
Release Date: October 11, 2011

TRACK LIST

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. The Illusive Number | 8:45 |
| 2. Canaria | 9:31 |
| 3. As Brothers Would | 4:55 |
| 4. Paths and Streams | 6:52 |
| <i>The Afropean Suite:</i> | |
| 5. Cosas Lindas Que Viven Ahora | 10:54 |
| 6. Last Season's Sorrow | 10:42 |
| 7. A New Day Emerging | 9:38 |



Oscar Perez (Piano) • **Stacy Dillard** (Saxophones) • **Greg Glassman** (Trumpet) • **Anthony Perez** (Bass)
Jerome Jennings (Drums) • **Emiliano Valerio** (Percussion) • **Charenee Wade** (Vocals)

The widespread outrage spawned by the Recording Academy's decision to do away with the Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album has obscured a far more interesting development. A new generation of musicians is busy erasing the old distinctions between straight ahead and Latin jazz, forging thrilling new group concepts by blending Afro-Caribbean rhythms and postbop idioms. With his second album, *Afropean Affair*, pianist and composer **Oscar Perez** places himself firmly in the forefront of this rising movement. The CD, with his band **Nuevo Comienzo**, will be released on October 11.

From the brisk, mercurial opening tune "The Illusive Number," which bobs and weaves through various time signatures, to the gorgeously flowing melodic line running through "Paths and Streams," which has all the makings of a jazz standard, Perez displays a real gift for crafting memorable tunes. Adding to the band's singular sound is Perez's acute textural sensibility, seen in his artful use of the Fender Rhodes.

The album's centerpiece is the texturally expansive three-piece *Afropean Suite*, a work commissioned by Chamber Music America that Perez premiered at the Jazz Gallery in September 2009. With the addition of the soul-drenched vocalist **Charenee Wade**, who contributes beautifully calibrated wordless lines, the suite traces an evocative emotional arc that flows from the soaring, sanguine first movement, "Cosas Lindas Que Viven Ahora" (Pretty Things That Live Now) to the nostalgia-laced "Last Seasons Sorrow" to the beatific closer "A New Day Emerging."

"Upon hearing the intro of the first song, I knew that Oscar Perez's new release Afropean Affair was going to be exciting and memorable." – **Sheila E. Anderson**, Host, Late Night Jazz, WBGO, 88.3FM

"The pianist's writing and arranging is smart, tradition inspired Latin jazz with an emphasis on jazz chords and colours. It's an addictive, sultry sound, rich with concise improvisations that always tell a wise tale and tell it well."
– **Joseph Blake**, The Times Colonist



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