

LUA HADAR with TWIST

Genre: World Jazz

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Iridium Jazz Club, New York City

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Vocals: Lua Hadar

Piano & Udu: Jason Martineau

Acoustic & Electric Bass: Andrew Higgins

Drums & Percussion: Jim Zimmerman

Latin Percussion: Patricio Angulo

Reeds: Tony Malfatti

Accordion: Dave Miotke

Musical Direction & Arranging:

Jason Martineau

Producer: Candace Forest

Graphic Design: Paige Smith

Photos: Kingmond Young

Recorded, Mixed & Mastered by Ari Rios

at **Laughing Tiger Studios**, San Rafael, CA



TWIST, headlined by multi-lingual vocalist Lua Hadar, plays its own brand of “jazz without borders,” spiced with elements of Latin, pop, funk, and international cabaret.

TOP 10 Radio Ratings in 2009 to date: KZSM in Santa Cruz, KAFM in Colorado, WEFT in Illinois, WMTU in Michigan, on lists with Charlie Parker, McCoy Tyner, Sonny Rollins, Chick Corea, Joshua Redman, Jacqui Naylor, Jane Monheit and Elaine Elias.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

TWIST came into being during 2007, but the seeds were planted long ago. I can still see my father standing up to take a big band sax solo, still feel the thrill of mambos and cha-chas from the Latin band that followed, before I was whisked off to bed, with *Dancing in the Dark* as my lullaby. My fascination for language and travel blossomed in high school. Later, I sang on tour for five years with an Italian theatre company. The song *Vorrei* was written by Nini Giacomelli, who has been my colleague since that time. Musical theatre work and classical voice studies have produced fusions like *Hi Lilli Hi Lo* with Poulenc's *Les Chemins de L'Amour*. I've always been awed by jazz, and hardly dared to approach it until I met my musical director, jazz pianist and composer Jason Martineau. “Dr. J” embraces all styles and helps put the *twist* in TWIST, adding tunes such as his *Floating Where I Have Never Been* to the mix. The shades of love presented here range from the personal to the love for humanity, embodied in our original, *No Borders*, written with composer-producer-“midwife,” Candace Forest.

9 TRACKS

1 Floating Where I Have Never Been (Je Vôle)

An original funk tune with music and lyrics by TWIST Music Director Jason Martineau, in French and English. (French translation courtesy of Matthew Haslip). The original English lyric begins, “the joy of

embracing, the loss of letting go..." The song evokes the yin and yang of relationship – "there's pain in pleasure" – and the surrender to the forces of nature – "the tides will move us, along which we will go." Andrew Higgins plays fretless Fender bass on this song, with a sinuous alto sax solo by Tony Malfatti. Lua's vocal floats effortlessly over the band.

2 Twilight World/Dancing in the Dark

The Marian McPartland/Johnny Mercer contemporary jazz classic pairs with the Schwartz & Dietz standard to evoke a bossa nova danced on a boat bathed in moonlight. Malfatti plays a Stan Getz-style tenor solo, then dances through Lua's voice.

3 Sous Le Ciel De Paris (Under Paris Skies)

The opening strains of the accordion have us dancing in three-quarter time in the streets of Paris. The scene rapidly cross-fades and we're in a Parisian nightclub – the kind you see in a black & white movie. A true chanteuse, Lua grooves with the accordion, as the room whirls in a jazz waltz. Music by Hubert Yves Giraud, French lyrics by Jean Drejac, guest accordioniste Dave Miotke.

4 All I Want

A latin/funk interpretation of the Joni Mitchell pop tune, originally from her 1971 *Blue* album, evokes a barefoot dance at an open-air bar on a beach in the middle of nowhere. Featuring Jim Zimmerman's driving drums, Andrew Higgins on fretless Fender, with Malfatti's wailing alto sax as a traveling partner to Lua's earthy interpretation.

5 No Borders

This original – a "funky art song" – has words, music & arrangement by Lua Hadar, Candace Forest and Jason Martineau. Lua tells a true story about war and peace and then zooms out for a look at the big picture, using the full range, depth and color of her voice. Malfatti's soprano sax weaves around the African udu drum played by Martineau.

6 Longer

Jason Martineau's poetic piano opens this much beloved Dan Fogelberg piece, and returns for an eloquent solo. Patricio Angulo's congas keep this modern day wedding dance warm and energized. The purity of Lua's voice makes a tribute from the heart to the memory of the iconic American songwriter.

7 Siboney

Patricio Angulo is featured in this Cuban classic by Ernesto Lecuona, a prolific composer known as the "Cuban Gershwin." The song switches back and forth between major and minor keys, the opening montuno kicking up to the percussion solo and then the driving 6/8 Afro-Cuban section, returning to the cha-cha at the end. Lua channels her inner Celia Cruz. "Siboney, I want you, I'm dying for your love..."

8 Hi Lilli Hi Lo/Les Chemins De L'amour

A waltz alone in the living room after your lover has gone. The two songs share a similar melodic structure and story: the ability of the human heart to heal and love again. The unique arrangement by Hadar, Forest and Martineau weaves the two waltzes together, featuring an elegant piano solo by Martineau. The haunting quality of Lua's voice blends perfectly with Miotke's poignant accordion obligato as these two beautiful tunes marry. *Hi Lilli Hi Lo* has music by Bronislaw Kaper with words by Helen Deutsch, from the 1953 movie, *Lili*. *Les Chemins de L'amour* has music by French composer Francis Poulenc and words by playwright Jean Anouilh.

9 Vorrei (I Would Like)

The sun streams in the window in the morning, the panting of the world has stopped for a little while, and in your lover's eyes you can see hope, not just for us, but for humankind. An Italian pop ballad with lyrics by Nini Giacomelli and music by Franco Bertoldi, sensuously performed by Lua and Jason as a duet for voice and piano. "I would like to stop the world, I would like to change time, sometimes jump over the impossible - to read a future I don't know, and in an immense embrace hold the universe; the moon, sun and stars that I find in your eyes in the morning, when a soft light comes in, illuminating the room and giving a great breath of hope."

EVOLUTION: As I look at the evolution of *Lua Hadar with TWIST*, I realize that from a young age I have had a deep interest in world cultures and language. All the major life choices and artistic choices I have made along the way reflect my passion as a student and citizen of the world. The road has led to the creation of this new CD.

We have been influenced by many artists, including Karrin Allyson, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Pink Martini, Ella Fitzgerald, Edith Piaf, Bill Evans, Toots Thielemans, Stephane Grapelli, Django Reinhardt, Andrea Bocelli, Carlos Gardel and Celia Cruz. And of course the songwriters of the Great American Songbook – Gershwin, Berlin, Arlen, Bernstein, Porter, Rodgers, Hart, Hammerstein, so many more.

In November of 2006, *TWIST* began to take root. It wasn't called *TWIST* yet, but it was the beginning. We performed an evening of sets at a Berkeley, California, jazz spot called Anna's Jazz Island, with music director Jason Martineau at the piano and leading the trio. The San Francisco Chronicle immediately picked up on it and gave the publicity photo a full page, with the word FRESH stamped on it. The sets consisted of jazz standards performed in unexpected ways, original songs, and foreign language tunes. The club was filled. The audience liked it.

We returned to Anna's in February 2007, this time referring to the evening as "Jazz Without Borders." Another success. We next moved on to San Francisco's historic jazz club, Jazz at Pearl's, in May 2007, this time adding a reed man to the band, in tribute to my musician father. We got an excellent review. The band was growing into *TWIST*.

In October 2007, we did a series of three appearances, this time with the addition of Latin percussion to the mix. We had come up with the name *TWIST*, to send the message that audiences were going to hear something fresh and to evoke a bit of a retro feel. The first show in Berkeley at Anna's, the next at San Francisco's Octavia Lounge, the third at Hollywood's M-Bar. We had great success at all three, and by the time we were driving back up to San Francisco from Hollywood, we agreed that it was a good time to record.

There have been many memorable moments along this road, but I have to say that returning to my native New York to debut this CD in May 2008, at the Iridium Jazz Club, was a huge moment for me, as was hearing our CD played in a Parisian club (Chez Georges) and seeing the crowd dancing on the tables to *All I Want*.

New York critic Joe Regan Jr. said at the NY release of the CD, ... *a stunning evening...sheer beauty... every selection was dramatically on the nose...she rocked... her physical presence and body language remind one of the great Latin, Abbe Lane, at her peak. The evening was pure pleasure!* Since then, the reviews and Top 10 Listings have come in from around the country and as far as Sweden, the UK, and Poland.

TWIST's mission is to foster world harmony through music by touring internationally to give audiences an experience of joy and unity. *TWIST* began that road with an **international debut** performance at the **Bangkok 10th International Festival of Dance and Music in October 2008**, followed by a warmly received appearance in Paris in July 2009.