



Paula Maya

Biography

Grammy and Latin Grammy Awards Voting member.

Paula Maya is a Brazilian singer, songwriter, keyboardist and independent recording artist with six CDs released and songs in several compilations. Her music and performances are strongly influenced by Brazilian music and world-pop with jazz undertones.

She was nominated for Best Brazilian Musician living in the USA in the Focus Web News 2016 Press Awards and voted as one of the Top Ten World Music Bands in the 2015 and 2014 Austin Chronicle Music Awards. Her new CD 'Iluminar' was nominated for Best 2015/16 World-Global Fusion Album by One World Music in UK. Matthew Forss, music writer for Canada-based *Inside World Music*, writes: "Paula Maya creates a stunning release with a good dose of South American pizzazz. Iluminar lights up any mood or situation with grace and authenticity."

Paula is from Rio de Janeiro, the birthplace of bossa nova and songs such as Girl from Ipanema. Rio is also where choro, a Brazilian be-bop-like music, was born a century before bossa nova. Both music styles, as well as Brazilian dance music like samba and baião, are heard in Paula's songs. Another strong influence is the eclectic community of musicians from different parts of the world that Paula is a part of, in Austin TX and in Seattle, where she used to live. Different genres such as jazz, country, reggae and soukous inspire fresh music blends.

In Seattle Maya had the opportunity of performing with her band at many festivals, including Bumbershoot, Folklife and Fremont Fair, amongst many others. Since establishing residency in Austin TX, she has performed with her band at concert series such as Jazz In The Garden, sponsored by KRTU in San Antonio, Bscene Bossa Nova, produced by The Blanton Museum of the Arts in Austin, and Dancing in the City, sponsored by the city of El Paso. And at several festivals, including Houston International Festival, Austin Jazz Fest and Leon Valley Jazz Festival.

Prior to leading her own groups, Paula performed with dozens of bands in a variety of music styles, including the legendary jazz /swing /MPB Orquestra Tabajara in Brazil. She has shared the stage with artists such as Caetano Veloso, Leila Pinheiro, Djavan, Vinicius Cantuaria, Teo Lima and Batacoto, Cyril Neville, Tab Benoit, Mitch Watkins and The Presidents of the United States of America. Paula has songs in several compilations, including Delicacy, featuring artists such as Jimmy Cliff.

Paula studied Classical Piano with the renown pianist Luiz Medalha and at the Brazilian Federal University of Music. She was certified in Music Theory at the Conservatory of Music in Rio de Janeiro, studied Composition with Maestro Leonardo Sá, and Jazz piano, Improvisation, Harmony and bossa nova with the great pianist and arranger Luizinho Eça, who used to call her, affectionately, 'geniozinho' (petite genius). Maya studied voice with Maestro David Kyle in Seattle and Mady Kaye in Austin, TX.

For 12 years Maya co-hosted the Brazilian radio show Raizes, on KBCS 91.3FM in Seattle/ Bellevue.

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