

IAKI VALLEJO

English Bio

iaki Vallejo was born between the sound of drums, chants, dances and vinyl records in Colombia. She grew up in a hood where the neighbours listened to loud music everyday. Music is one of the greatest riches of her nation; it is a reference of being Colombian.

Lulled to sleep every night with the street's music was very common.

At home, each of her family members loved its own music style, rhythms that in many ways influenced iaki's artistic career since its inception at the age of four. She performed at her school's singing festivals in search of a music path she is sure was written for her since she was born, and she states "I didn't find the music, music found me". Iaki performed in restaurants, hotels, festivals and private parties at her hometown. She has a degree in music and performing, and years later she moved to Bogota where she worked as a studio backup singer and later as the lead singer of her first music project.

Years later iaki wanted to expand her career path. She had the opportunity to travel to Spain where she worked with Latin American bands and performed in many music festivals around Cataluña. A year later she moved to Italy, place she called home for a decade.

During this time she had the opportunity to work with renowned European artists and her music tastes and influences changed.

Also during this time she took a break from her music career because as she states, "It was a time where I lost the faith in myself".

It has been a long track full of ups and downs, but at the end the way music strengthens and comforts her, helping to express herself through her songs, has been the engine to encourage her to keep going.

iaki is now working between Australia y Colombia and is in Australia where her music style has been enriched

and as the amazing latin jazz performer she has become she has been able to express her feelings delighting the audiences. But nevertheless thanks to her multifaceted voice she is not afraid to sing all types of tunes, and that is reflected in her latest project. Life experiences such as traveling around Latin America, Europe

and Australia and the amazing opportunities to work with astonishing musicians has let iaki to be open minded and be influenced by music styles she never explored before. She has discovered a new way to write her lyrics saying what she wants and not being afraid of the criticism. All this has inspired the most important project of her career that she is currently creating next to the fantastic Colombian arranger and producer Cristian Villota and the world's most innovative Master Australian drummer David Jones, –also known for working with the renowned trumpeter James Morrison-, as co-producer and musician of this venture. She presents a fusion of Afro/traditional Colombian rhythms, such as bulleréngue, chandé, cumbia with jazz and funk, to create an explosive mix of cultures: Fantastic ingredients for a unique recipe!

This work reflects her story, her dreams, her hopes and her misadventures, and for the first time her own songs are included alongside traditional Afro-Colombian melodies. The first single 'Margarita', recently released and written in honor of her mother, inspiration of her songs and her daily life, whose musical arrangements were created by Jones, can be listened through her YouTube Channel.