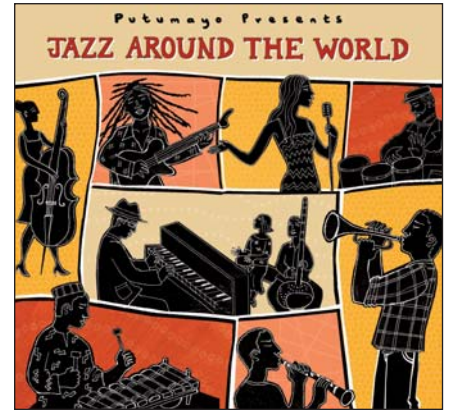


Jazz Around the World

(PUT 296 Liner Notes)

Jazz has had a long and eventful journey: from its ancestral roots in Africa, to the nightclubs and streets of New Orleans where it was born and raised, to other urban centers like Chicago and New York where it was refined. Ultimately, jazz has spread to the far corners of the globe and has been spiced with the sounds of many cultures. It is hard to imagine jazz today without the international ingredients contributed by artists such as France's Django Reinhardt, South Africa's Abdullah Ibrahim, Brazil's Antônio Carlos Jobim and Cuba's Mongo Santamaria who took the jazz fundamentals of improvisation and innovation and added the rhythms and melodies of their native lands.

Some of the artists featured on *Jazz Around the World* may be unfamiliar, but they all share a passion for the jazz idiom. Despite their differences in style and instrumentation, their music reveals the commonalities that make them a part of the global jazz family.



1. CHANTAL CHAMBERLAND

La Mer

artist: shan-tal sham-bair-lahn song: lah mehr

Chantal Chamberland was raised in Montreal, the French-speaking Canadian city that is host to one of the world's largest jazz festivals. She grew up listening to jazz artists like Ella Fitzgerald and French music by Jacques Brel, Edith Piaf and others. She started singing in local bars before she had even reached the legal drinking age and gained attention with an acoustic folk-rock duo that shared stages with the Barenaked Ladies and Sarah McLachlan, among others. Chamberland eventually decided to focus mostly on jazz and has become one of Canada's rising jazz stars.

"La Mer" (The Sea) was written and first recorded by French singer Charles Trenet in the 1940s. An English version called "Beyond the Sea" (which had very different lyrics than the original) was a hit for Bobby Darin in the 1960s and jazz guitarist George Benson in the 80s. "And with a song of love / The sea gently rocks my heart for life."

2. NIUVER

Quiéreme Mucho

artist: nee-oo-vehr song: KHYER-eh-may MOO-choh

Born in Matanzas, Cuba and now living in France, the singer Niuver was nurtured by the rich musical traditions of her homeland and inspired by the artistic energy of her adopted country. Jazz has deeply influenced both Cuba and France, and Niuver's music blends elements of jazz, Brazilian *bossa nova*, French *chanson* and Cuban *trova*. With her silky voice and easygoing presence, she has become a popular singer in the French jazz and Latin music scenes.

As a young musician in Cuba, Niuver was taken under the wings of Marta Valdés, one of the leading figures in Cuba's singer-songwriter movement. After studying at Havana's National School of the Arts, she moved to France in search of greater artistic opportunities. There she met Raul Paz, a popular France-based Cuban singer, and they have performed and recorded together numerous times.

In fact, "Quiéreme Mucho" (Love Me Deeply), the title track from Niuver's 2008 debut album, was written by Paz. "Love me deeply so I won't forget you / Love me deeply, always, and I will love you."

3. BLICK BASSY

Donalina

artist: blick bah-see song: don-ah-LEE-nah

Singer and songwriter Blick Bassy was born in 1974 in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon. Bassy lived with his 20 siblings in the bustling, cosmopolitan city until the age of ten, when he was sent to live with his grandparents for two years in a small, rural village. There he was immersed in the traditional music, customs and culture of his Bassa ethnic group.

Back in the city as a teenager, Bassy fell in love with jazz and soul music, noting, "I started listening to Marvin Gaye, Gilberto Gil and Nat King Cole. I realized I wanted to blend the beauty of my Bassa culture and its musical traditions with other music that inspired me and create my own soulful sound." He started his first band, Jazz Crew, when he was 17, playing a fusion of African melodies, jazz and *bossa nova*. In 2005, Bassy decided to pursue his career in Paris, working with many of the successful African artists living there.

Bassy's first solo album, *Léman*, was released in 2008 and featured the track "Donalina." Backed by a smooth, jazzy rhythm, Bassy's silky voice and softly strummed guitar is accented by subtle notes from the *kora*, a West African harp.

4. KORA JAZZ TRIO

Chan Chan

artist: koh-rah jazz trio song: chahn chahn

Kora Jazz Trio unites three of Africa's greatest instrumentalists into an African jazz supergroup that has had great success in Europe. Kora maestro Djeli Moussa Diawara was born into a griot family in Guinea and has become famous for his virtuosic and adventurous *kora* playing. Pianist Abdoulaye Diabaté grew up in Senegal in a musical family and became the leader of the Senegalese National Orchestra. One of Africa's most sought after composers and arrangers, he has worked with a pantheon of greats, including Salif Keita and Manu Dibango. Senegalese percussionist Moussa Cissoko rounds out the trio with his stunning rhythmic prowess. The group was formed in Paris and has released three critically-praised albums.

From their album *Part III*, Kora Jazz Trio's rendition of "Chan Chan" is a masterful interpretation of the classic Cuban song, which was a global hit for Compay Segundo and the Buena Vista Social Club. Diawara's intricate *kora* lines interweave magically with Diabaté's solid piano riffs and Cissoko's subtle hand drumming.

5. HEATHER RIGDON

Young and Naïve

Jazz singer Heather Rigdon was born in 1974 in Florissant, Missouri and raised in Texas by parents who toured the country performing gospel music. Her father also was a strict Pentecostal Christian and didn't allow her to listen to secular music. But, she discovered an eight-track tape of Ray Charles in his music collection and began exploring different musical styles. By the sixth grade, the rebellious Rigdon had become a fan of heavy metal music. When she finished high-school, however, her tastes had mellowed and she decided to focus on becoming a jazz singer. Rigdon moved to Nashville where, with the help of producer Cliff Goldmacher, she recorded her first album, *Young and Naïve*, which earned her comparisons to Melody Gardot and Madeleine Peyroux.

The title track of that album "Young and Naïve" has an endearing, accessible melody. It was co-written by Rigdon, Goldmacher and singer-songwriter Tom Kimmel.

6. KAD

J'aime Mon Lit

artist: kahd song: jem mon lee

Kad Achouri, known simply as Kad, is of Spanish and Algerian ancestry. He was raised in southern France, lived in Barcelona for five years and is now based in London. His music reflects this multicultural background, displaying influences of jazz, electronica, French *chanson*, reggae, hip-hop and quirky Spanish pop reminiscent of French-Spanish star and fellow polyglot Manu Chao. To further muddy the cultural waters, Kad's debut album *Liberté* was recorded in Athens where a group of talented Greek musicians helped him achieve his border-crossing vision. More recently, he has composed for films, and co-wrote and produced an album with the Western Sahara desert blues band Tiris.

"J'aime Mon Lit" (I Love My Bed) appeared on Kad's second album, *Société*, which was released in 2005 and featured a more laid-back, jazzy vibe than his earlier recording. The album features Kad's own compositions alongside renditions of songs by writers as diverse as Kurt Cobain, Cole Porter and Baden Powell. Here, Kad sings wistfully of his beloved personal retreat. "I love my bed made, unmade and remade / In its every state it lifts my spirits."

7. SHERELE

Polka Dot Blues

artist: SHEH-reh-leh

Sherele is a quartet based in Guadalajara, Mexico. Formed by musicians from France, Mexico and Argentina, Sherele incorporates elements of jazz, Argentinean *tango* and Latin American folk music to create a unique approach to *klezmer* music. *Klezmer* originated among Jewish communities in Eastern Europe and was refined in recent years by young musicians who emphasized the genre's deep-rooted ties to early American jazz and swing.

"Polka Dot Blues" features the supple clarinet playing of French musician Nathalie Braux, who also composed the song. It recalls the sound of Benny Goodman, a jazz legend whose Jewish heritage led to a seamless integration of early swing and the traditional Eastern European melodies he heard growing up in a Russian immigrant family in Chicago. Goodman's success encouraged a connection between jazz and *klezmer* that has lasted to this day.

8. KATARAINA PIPI

Te Reo o Papatuanuku

artist: kat-ah-RAI-nah pee-PEE song: teh reh-oh pup-ah-too-ah-noo-koo

Pacific Islanders have had a love affair with jazz since the early part of the 20th century when Hawaiian musicians discovered that American ragtime and swing fused magically with the melodies and slack-key guitar riffs of traditional island music. For a time, the swinging Hawaiian jazz sound was immensely popular on the U.S. mainland, as well as in Europe and throughout Asia and the South Pacific.

It's clear that the Hawaiian jazz sound has influenced the music of New Zealand Maori musician Kataraina Pipi, as "Te Reo o Papatuanuku" ("The Voice of Mother Earth") demonstrates the laid-back charm and light-hearted melodies that made the combination of jazz with Pacific Island flavors so popular. Pipi delights in singing about life's daily events and promoting her indigenous Maori language and culture. "This is the morning call / As you arise to the sound of birds singing sweetly / My friends, let us embrace Mother Earth."

9. KÉLÉTIGUI DIABATÉ WITH HABIB KOITÉ & BAMADA

Summertime at Bamako

artist: keh-leh-TEE-ghée dee-ah-BAH-tay with hah-BEEB KWAH-tay and bah-mah-dah

KélétiGUI Diabaté is a legendary figure in Malian music and one of the foremost *balafón* (a wooden xylophone) players in Africa. Diabaté also plays violin, guitar and saxophone, and maintains an active touring and recording career that has spanned more than 50 years. A founding member of the first national orchestras of both Mali and Guinea, Diabaté even jammed with legendary jazz vibraphonist Lionel Hampton during a Kennedy Center show in 1978. Recruited to participate on countless recording sessions by a vast array of Mali's most important artists, Diabaté is now a full-time member of Bamada, Habib Koité's band. Besides being a master musician, Diabaté is also an excellent craftsman and makes his own *balafóns* by hand in the same way they have been made for generations.

George Gershwin's enduring song "Summertime" has been covered countless times since it was first heard in the musical *Porgy and Bess* in 1935. Habib Koité & Bamada joins Diabaté on this inspired rendition, connecting the jazz classic with its ancient African roots.

10. BILLY COBHAM AND ASERE

Destinos

artist: *bih-lee koh-bam and ah-seh-ray* song: *deh-STEE-nohs*

Generally regarded as one of jazz fusion's greatest drummers, Billy Cobham came to fame in the 1970s through his work with Miles Davis and with the pioneering fusion group Mahavishnu Orchestra. Born in Panama in 1944, Cobham moved to New York City when he was three. His talent as a drummer was evident from a very young age and over the years he has played with some of the greatest names in jazz, including Oscar Peterson, Herbie Hancock and others.

In 2007, Cobham returned to his Latin roots and collaborated with the Cuban group Asere on the album *De Cuba y De Panamá*. Cobham had first met the seven-member Havana-based group at the WOMAD festival in Cáceres, Spain in 2002 and they came together to record at Peter Gabriel's Real World Studios in England. "Destinos" (Destinations) was written by trumpeter Michel Padron, who is also the featured soloist on the track.

11. HUGH MASEKELA *with* MALAIKA

Open the Door

artist: *hew mah-sah-KEH-lah with mah-LYE-kah*

One of South Africa's best-known artists, Hugh Masekela has had a long and varied musical career, alternating between jazz, rhythm and blues, afropop and world fusion. Masekela began singing and playing piano as a child and turned his attention to jazz when he was 13. He left South Africa and moved to the United States in 1961 with the support of Dizzy Gillespie, Harry Belafonte and others. Masekela recorded a number of successful albums for major U.S. labels like Verve and Mercury, and his original blend of African music and jazz struck a chord with the American public. His 1968 song "Grazing in the Grass" topped the pop charts. Masekela has recorded with Simply Red, Cyndi Lauper and Paul Simon, whom he joined on the famed *Graceland* tour.

Now back in South Africa, Masekela remains a dominant figure in his country's music scene, not only as a musician, but also as a producer of young talent. "Open the Door" is from his 2005 release *Revival* and features his trademark smooth trumpet melodies together with a traditional South African chorus and the soulful backing vocals of up-and-coming singer Malaika.

Musicians

La Mer

Vocals: Chantal Chamberland; Guitar: Rob Piltch; Drums: Mark McLean; Piano: Robi Botos

Quiéreme Mucho

Vocals: Niuver; Piano: Iván Gonzales Lewis; Bass and guitar: Lino Lores; Percussion: Abraham Mansfarrol; Drums and percussion: Nicolas Dacunha

Donalina

Guitar and percussion: Blick Bassy; Acoustic guitar: Jean-Louis Solans; Bass: Guy Nsangue; Kora: Sekou Kouyate; Calabash and tama: Mohamadou Konde Dit "Prince"; Kamele Ngoni: Haruna Samake; Cajón and percussion: Valerie Lobé; Flute and melodica: David Aubaille

Chan Chan

Piano: Abdoulaye Diabaté; Kora: Djeli Moussa Diawara; Percussion: Moussa Cissoko

Young and Naïve

Vocals: Heather Rigdon; Piano: Catherine Marx; Drums: Jim White; Bass: Dave Francis

J'aime Mon Lit

Vocals and all instruments: Kad Achouri; Trumpet: Johnny Stirling

Polka Dot Blues

Clarinet: Nathalie Braux; Bass: Luis "El Chino" Arreola; Acoustic guitar: Sibila Knobel Oizerovich

Te Reo o Papatuanuku

Vocals: Kataraina Pipi; Keyboards, bass and drums: Mike McCarthy

Summertime at Bamako

Balafon: Kélétigui Diabaté; Guitar: Habib Koité; Bass: Abdoul Wahab Berthé; Drums and calebasse: Souleymane Ann; Guitar and harmonica: Boubacar Sidibé; Percussion: Mahamadou Koné

Destinos

Trumpet: Michael Padron; Guiro: David Echevarria; Maracas: David Echevarria; Cowbell: Juan "Luz Brillante" Alarcon; Bass: Michael Salazar; Drums: Billy Cobham; Spanish guitar: Andres Valdes

Open the Door

Vocals and flugelhorn: Hugh Masekela; Backing Vocals: Malaika; Drums: Sello Montwedi; Bass: Lucas Senyatso; Percussion: Tlala Makhene, Francis Fuster; Guitar: Themba Mokeonal