



BIOGRAPHY

Helena Recalde was born in Quito the capital of Ecuador in 1977. This city will only be a starting point, as she will spend the rest of her time moving around with her father who travelled across the country for his work. From a young age, she discovered the different cities and regions of this wonderful country and was enriched by its cultural differences. Her eyes widened and dazzled in the mist of the Andes Cordillera which wraps in vaporous ribbons a diverse, exuberant, affectionate and generous population. Today the lyrics of her songs evoke the valleys of her origins, the mother who heals and soothes, the nostalgia for childhood. Spiced up, her music distils the African rhythms of drums and the "marimba" under the sun of Esmeraldas beach on the black Pacific coast where she spent most of her free time dancing or disappearing in the region's wilderness.

When she was a teenager her family moved to Cuenca, a city that saw the birth of many poets, musicians, painters and all kinds of artists, named Cultural Heritage of Humanity by **UNESCO**, as a tribute to its inhabitants who designed a magical place in which art is expressed at each corner of the street.

In Cuenca, Helena studied piano and guitar at the José Maria Rodriguez Conservatory, but her taste for contemporary music and urban life also made her interested in rock and pop music. In 1993 with her high school band she participated in the National Festival of High School Music broadcasted on **Teleamazonas**, the most popular television channel in the country and her band reached the final. Later, with some members of this band she formed **Stoikas** a female pop-rock band, recorded an EP and played many concerts in the country with the **Rock Nativo**

program. In 1995, Helena studied Social Communication at the University of Azuay and discovered the art of writing, speech and images. She played in the university orchestra, participated in **the National and Pan-American University Music Competition** and received for 3 consecutive years one of the **podium prizes**. In 2002, Helena obtained a **Bachelor of Journalism** and went to France with the support of the *Alliance Française*. In Paris, she studied at the Paris EHESS; then at the Abanico Afro-Cuban Music School with great musicians such as Carlos Kutimba, Feliz Toca and Laurent Erdos.

Later, she studied at the departmental conservatory of Evry and obtained her Diploma of Musical Studies in Jazz-



With P. Laccarriere
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Bass. She studied jazz music and was trained by great teachers like Guillaume Roy and the double-bassist Phillippe Laccarriere who became her master. He introduced her to many figures of jazz music such as, among others, Emmanuel Bex, Henry Texier, Hubert Colau and Francis Loockwood through the **“ASDN”** Festival which became her second home. At the same time, she was trained in music instruction and pedagogy at the **University of Paris-Sud 11** (at CFMI). In 2013, she obtained the University **Diploma of Music Instructor (DUMI)**.

In 2011 she decided to work on her own project with her loyal long-distance friend, the virtuous pianist Fady Farah from Lebanon and Axel Colombel on drums. With them, she recorded her first album (EP), a collection of 6 pieces of composed and arranged music, full of emotion, a mixture of Afro-Latin beats and jazz sounds. Argentinian drummer Vanesa Garcia then succeeded to Axel Colombel on drums in this trio and brought her subtle and personal drumming style.



F. Farah, H. Recalde and V. Garcia
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The respect and knowledge Helena has of the music of her origins led her to collaborate with South-American artists from all over the world on various Latin music projects, such as the prestigious all-female Salsa orchestra **Yemaya La Banda** in which Helena plays bass guitar, composes and participates in music arrangements.



Yemaya La Banda

She collaborates with Boris Caicedo, world famous Colombian producer and percussionist, on several projects in



Kora Jazz

particular with the **Kora Jazz Trio**, a renowned African band. Her musical openness, talent and taste for improvisation allow her to adapt to various music genres - afro, Latin, jazz, manouche, folk, pop, oriental music or even contemporary music. She therefore was able to collaborate in other major music projects and with artists in France and abroad : Vivi Pozzebon, Nancy Murillo, Angelica Lopez, Leese, Oriental Music Ensemble, Manigua, Sonora 6, Pigalle Swing, Minino Garay and Frapadingos, Pedro Kouyaté, Emmanuel Massarotti, Elvita Delgado, Les frères Bluteau, Aurora Alquinta, Abou Diarra, Chorale Singa, Billie Brelok and many others.

In 2018 she met Fawaz Baker, a great Syrian composer with whom she played as a soloist for a sold-out concert at the **Philharmonie de Paris** and at the **Orchestre de Chambre de Paris**, an event which confirmed the strength and talent of this Ecuadorian musician. This project was followed by the recording of an album (*Cie Hirundo Rustica Label*).



Ensemble Fawaz Baker



Chorale Singa

She has been teaching at the **Evry Conservatory** since 2011, participating in and coordinating several cultural animation projects. She leads various workshops and does tutoring for CFMI students from **Paris-Sud 11 University**.

Helena's quest for happiness is fulfilled when she pauses her hands on **Flona-Moscato**, a 5-strings bass guitar which was built especially for her by **Jean-Luc Moscato**,

a French luthier with international reputation. The bass guitars he manufactures are among the best in the world.

Bass FLona by Jean-Luc Moscato Luthier



Currently she is preparing her new original album in partnership with the Limours Youth

Center through **Terre de Mix**, its support program for foreign artists. With her weapon Flona, her double bass, her "joie de vivre" and her deep eyes like a condor, Helena will take you discover her universe... come fly away with her!



Fady Farah, recording piano



Recording by JC Panizza. Terre de Mix



Vanesa García, Recording drums

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