

Marietta Veulens

Personal Information

- Full Name: Marietta Veulens
- Occupation: Composer / Pianist
- Nationality: Cuban & British
- Country of Residence: England
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Profile

With 20 years of experience as a pianist and composer, Marietta was brought up to learn the traditions of classical, occidental music as a student in the Escuela Nacional de Musica in Havana. At the same time, she has been submerged in the AfroCuban and Latin music culture, which she has brought in her work to London, where she has been working as a composer and piano player for the last 8 years. Throughout her career she has formed and directed several groups and ensembles and has toured extensively in Europe and Latin America.

Professional Experience

- 2007 - 2008** Preparation of compositional contemporary Afro-Cuban Jazz concert music project "Cosmopolita" for a 7 piece ensemble.
- 2006** Released her CD "*Piano Cubano: De algunas zonas del alma*", launched with a concert in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Created the music for the Out of the Box theatre production *The Leningrad Siege* directed by Mark Rosenblatt.
- 2000 - 2005** Recorded the first album of her own compositions for piano, with Lorelt, London. Performed solo with her own material at the Purcell Room in the South Bank Centre for La Linea Latin American International Festival. Performed in concerts as a solo pianist in venues such as the Bolivar Hall, The Spitz, Riverside Studios and at the Newcastle International Music Festival. Performed for several Cuban traditional and Latin Jazz groups in various London venues. Has written and recorded music in collaboration with graduates of the National Film School and for solo singer Liliana former member of da Lata. Has collaborated with several artists in installation art events. Organized the CubaFest music festival for Riverside Studios and performed her own music there. Collaborated with the BBC as a pianist in one of its programmes. Started working on new compositions for piano.
- 1995 - 2000** Formed the Cuban group *Cubanito* and performed in several venues in London and around the UK.
- 1986 - 1995** Music Director and Pianist with *Buendia Cuban Theatre Company* touring in Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Argentina, Venezuela and the UK, taking part in the most prestigious International Festivals. With *Buendia*, composed, directed and performed the music for all their theatre shows and also for some experimental mixed shows organised for the Café Theatre. Performed in venues such as The Assembly Rooms (Edinburgh Festival), Southbank Centre, Riverside Studios, Warrick



Composer & Pianist

Professional Experience

- Arts Centre and Ronnie Scotts. Was recorded live and broadcasted by BBC Radio 3 from the Purcell Room in the South Bank Centre. Formed the Buendia Habana Musical Group and performed in venues in Italy, Spain, Germany, France and the UK, including the Purcell Room and Ronnie Scott's.
- 1986** National Prize for composition from UNEAC (Association of Cuban Writers' and Artists')
 - 1982** Founder Member and Music Director of *Buendia Theatre Company*, La Habana.
 - 1978 - 1982** Music advisor at the University of Habana, Cuba. Founder Member of the Electro-Acoustic Music Lab in Cuba. Composed music for several international festivals of Electro-acoustic music in La Habana, working with dancers and actors. Composed music for the screen in Cuba.
 - 1979** Piano teacher for elementary level at *Alejandro Garcia Caturla School*, Havana and *Saumell Music School*, Havana.
 - 1977** Prize 13 de Marzo for composition, Universidad de la Habana.

Qualifications

- 1983-1985 Scholarship in Composition at the *Music College of Havana*
- 1973-1979 Scholarship for intermediate and higher level piano studies, graduated at the *National Music School* in Havana. Winner on consecutive years of the Award for Song Composition, later recorded by EGREM (the national recording company in Havana).
- 1966-1972 Scholarship in elementary level piano studies, graduated at the *School of Music in Matanzas*, Cuba.

Training

- Master class with the Cuban maestro Chucho Valdes in 1981.
- Master class with Cuban composer Leo Brouwer and tuition with Andres Allen, nominated for a Grammy.
- Percussion classes from leading percussionists at the Conjunto Folklorico Nacional, Habana, Cuba.
- Private lessons with Josefina Menendez, pianist from the *Juilliard School of Music in New York*.

Reviews

Vital, creative, highly enjoyable. *Scotland on Sunday*

Veulens is a sensitive player with a keen sensibility for piano timbres. Her pedaling technique is extraordinarily refined - a real pleasure to hear. *American Record Guide*

Her music is somewhat difficult to describe but not to listen to. Fascinating and genuinely musical artist. *Musical Opinion*