

Press release:

Artist: ALMA

Album Title: „GRACIAS A LA VIDA“

Release date 15.12.2020



ALMA is a versatile and innovative duo with the singer Alicia Nilsson (Sweden / Argentina) and the guitarist Martin Weiss (Germany). On their debut album "GRACIAS A LA VIDA" they present wonderful acoustic interpretations of great international classics by Édith Piaf, George Gershwin, Antônio Carlos Jobim and Mercedes Sosa. ALMA's great variety of styles from latin ("Gracias A La Vida") to jazz ("Love Is Here To Stay") and Italian Classics ("Quando") to chansons ("La Foule") flows into fascinating song arrangements with a very special touch.

Alicia's soulful and expressive vocal performance with lyrics in Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, English and French makes ALMA's album repertoire so authentic and unique. Martin's marvellous guitar accompaniment plays on a high artistic level and contributes to the unmistakable duo sound with wonderful arrangements.

"GRACIAS A LA VIDA" is the first album by the innovative acoustic duo ALMA. The music brought Alicia and Martin together in September 2019 in Stuttgart. Immediately the spark jumped between them, both professionally and privately. At the beginning of 2020 they moved together in Mallorca-Spain and founded the ALMA project, which combined all their love and passion in their music. During the Spain-wide lockdown in spring 2020, they started with some song recordings and videos for their YouTube channel and released their first EP "Lost On You" with pop cover songs on Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon via the recordJET label.

From mid-2020, however, ALMA switched the musical course to international classics of various styles: bolero, tango, jazz standards, bossa nova, French chansons and Italian works. The idea for an album with a selection of immortal classics was born. Among them their favorite "GRACIAS A LA VIDA", which was written by the Chilean folklore musician Violeta Parra and made famous in Latin America by the Argentine singer Mercedes Sosa. The song means a lot to Alicia because it was one of her father's favourite songs, who died of devastating lung cancer in 2011. In fact, the album is dedicated to him. Alicia and Martin agreed that "GRACIAS A LA VIDA" would also be the perfect title for the album as it is a hymn to their love, their music and their life.

The great selection of songs from "GRACIAS A LA VIDA" and the artistic arrangements make this album so diverse and passionate, intense and unique. The warm and spirited voice of Alicia and the soulful, elegant guitar playing of Martin ennoble the interpretations of the great composers George Gershwin, Kurt Weil, Edith Piaf, Antônio Carlos Jobim to a real listening pleasure. For the album, Alicia and Martin finally composed the wonderful song "Soledad" with Spanish influences.

The ALMA duo received particularly high praise for their YouTube videos and releases on the well-known streaming and download platforms Spotify, iTunes and Amazon. Including by the world-famous artist Noa (Achinoam Nini). She enthusiastically commented on ALMA's version of "Beautiful That Way" - the soundtrack title of the Oscar-winning film "La vita è bella" ("Life is beautiful"): "The arrangement is just beautiful, so unique, the guitar is fantastic, the vocals so deep and soulful, congratulations!"

Track list:

1. Love Is Here to Stay (G. Gershwin / I. Gershwin)
2. Beautiful That Way (N. Piovani / N. Achinoam)
3. Agua de Beber (A. C. Jobim / V. De Moraes)
4. Quando (P. Daniele)
5. Garganta Con Arena (H. Castagna)
6. Soledad (M. Weiss / A. Nilsson)
7. Youkali (K. Weill / R. Fernay)
8. Como fue (E. Brito)
9. La foule (A. Cabral / M. Rivgache)
10. Gracias a la Vida (V. Parra)
11. La voglia, la pazzia (Toquinho / V. De Moraes)
12. La vie en rose (Louiguy / É. Piaf)

Label: Panchorama Records

Vertrieb: Feiyr / Nova MD

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Audio samples and further information of ALMA:

ALMA website:

<https://de.alma-acoustic.com>

ALMA on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgUPArIjwDztl-PwXDsqWw>

ALMA on Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/4H8ieaDmcnoG8XmKf2Y4jk>

ALMA on Apple Music:

<https://music.apple.com/de/artist/alma/1508598212>