

Marita Albán Juárez Quartet, *Aguas Calientes*, (Youkali Music 2015)

Aguas Calientes, the debut album of MAJ Quartet has been released in May 2015 by the Madrid label Youkali Music. The CD is available for online purchase at [Youkali Music](#) and (for Polish audience) at [Dobrzewiesz Store](#). You can also find it on [iTunes](#) and Spotify. The album teaser, tracks, promo video, as well as past performances available on the MAJ Quartet [YouTube Channel](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Marita Albán Juárez Quartet was established in 2011 by Polish-Peruvian vocalist Marita Albán Juárez and her brother, drummer José Manuel. *It took a long time to form the band. At some point we performed with Dominik Wania, a brilliant pianist who studied with Danilo Perez, and that was it – a revelation!* The band was soon joined by Andrzej Świąś, jazz bassist who immersed himself with true passion in the Afro-Peruvian tradition of music, which remains its greatest source of inspiration.

I recorded my most cherished musical memories, the classical Latin tunes I grew up with – from the 1970s or earlier. They became the main themes for our improvisations. The album *Aguas Calientes* builds on musical traditions of Afroperu, Cuba, Argentina and Brazil, reinterpreting the many styles that in their diversity make Latin Jazz.

We entered the studio immediately, it was basically a live recording. Only afterwards we started to perform together in concerts, developing new ideas and interpretations.

Tropicalismo, equality and feminism are among the main themes of the album – all of that was present in our family. We were also very much drawn to singular personalities of performers such as Elis Regina or Susana Baca.

Marita has been present on the jazz scene for many years, performing at home and abroad in clubs, theatre halls and on festivals. With background in history of music and a specialist on Fryderyk Chopin, she is also known as host of TV shows, the Chopin Competition and documentaries on classical music, including [Chopin Reloaded](#) produced in 2010 by Vision House and BBC World. **José Manuel** is a versatile and multifaceted performer with and immense experience. He collaborated in projects ranging from modern and classical music to dancehall sound systems. He is a member of the hip-hop collective Łona & The Pimps, Ten Typ Mes and leader of the Salsa Central big band. He is also member of all Jimek projects, including their last CD - *Mosaik Motrip orchestrated by Jimek* (Deutsche Grammophon, 2016). **Dominik** is one of the most acclaimed young pianists. His debut album dedicated to *Ravel* (For Tune, 2013) earned him two Fryderyk 2014 awards (the Polish Grammy) for best jazz album and the best jazz debut. He has collaborated on many different projects in improvised music and recurrently performed with Tomasz Stańko and Maciej Obara, with whom he just have released *Unloved* (ECM 2017). **Andrzej Świąś**, one of the best and most interesting jazz bassists of the young generation, has recorded dozens of albums and performer with Lee Konitz, Greg Osby, George Garzone, Karl Martin Almquist, Jacques Schwarz-Bard among others, as well as with most of the great masters of Polish Jazz. Recordings featuring Świąś are nominated for Fryderyk awards every year.