

SQUIRREL THING



RECORDINGS

LUZMILA

LUZMILA CARPIO

YUYAY JAP'INA TAPES 2xLP/CD

RELEASE DATE: JULY 10th, 2015

GENRE: WORLD

In 1949, Luzmila Carpio was born in the rural town of Qala Qala, Bolivia. It was there that her earliest musical experiences— and the genesis of her unique voice—shaped her decades-long career writing and performing Quechua music. In Bolivia, though more than 36 indigenous languages are spoken by nearly 40 percent of the population, the only officially recognized language of state was Spanish until September of 2000. Thus, for much of the 20th century, Quechua populations were concentrated in rural areas, often ignored by those in urban centers of political power.

The social, political and economic stigma that came with identifying as Quechua was keenly felt throughout Luzmila's formative years, though the tide began to shift in the late 1960s. At age 15, Luzmila joined the group Los Provincianos and has continued to make music ever since. Her distinctive musical style comes from her impossibly high upper register that oftentimes mingles so closely with the timbre of a quena flute:

"In my community, among us, we sing like that—very high. It's the tradition in our area that I further developed while trying other styles or ranges as my voice allowed. My mother would say that by singing that way we would safeguard the voice of the little girl, and that the world would welcome us. It's attributed to Pacha Mama, Mother Earth..."

In October of 1992, Luzmila began working with UNICEF on the Yuyay Jap'ina campaign for adult literacy. The goal of the project was to increase Quechua and Spanish language literacy amongst Quechua-speaking populations. The designers of the Yuyay Jap'ina project commissioned recordings by Luzmila that featured local musicians performing both traditional Quechua songs and those specially composed by Luzmila. Cassettes were then played in libraries and learning centers and distributed for free in participant villages. In keeping with the core mission of the literacy campaign, written song lyrics accompanied the tapes in both Quechua and Spanish.

Many of the songs take a pedagogical approach; they testify to the importance of clean drinking water (Ch'uwa yaku kawsaypuni, "Crystal Clear Water Is Life"), the self-actualizing power of literacy (Riqsisqa kasunchik, "We Will Be Recognized"), and the self-assertion of women (Warmikuna yupay-chasqapuni kasunchik, "Women, We Have To Be Respected"). But looking at the Yuyay Jap'ina tapes as a set of instructional songs would be only the narrowest interpretation. Taken in context, the songs are a bold celebration of language and culture.

Luzmila Carpio currently lives in Paris and continues to write and perform her songs around the world.

ST-006

01. Riqsiqa Kasunchik
02. Ch'uwa Yaku Kawsaypuni
03. Warmip Kawysayin
04. Ughumanta
05. Warmikuna Yupay-Chaqapuni Kasunchik
06. Arawi
07. Yanapariway Takiriyta
08. Killpa
09. Pachamamata T'ikanchasun
10. Kusichisun Wawitata
11. Tillpi Tillpilla
12. Sumaq Awaq Warmi
13. Jiwasay
14. Qalay Qalay
15. Kawsay Jap'isunchik
16. Wataq Killasnin
17. Amautayku, Avelino Siñani

LP UPC: 813195020070

LP FORMAT: 2xLP + MP3s

LP BOXLOT: 20

EXPORT: WORLD, EXCL.

SOUTH AMERICA

VINYL NON-RETURNABLE



CD UPC: 813195020063

CD FORMAT: JEWEL CASE

CD BOXLOT: 30

EXPORT: WORLD, EXCL.

FRANCE AND S. AMERICA



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