



Just Listen
Records

SIDE^{BY}SIDE

Laura Polence



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To me and to many others, 2017 was a year of changes, doubts, questions, ends and new beginnings. A stormy year. The recording of this album was a summary, closure of that year and a big step into something new.

First of all, I want to thank Jonas and Jared from Native DSD for giving me the chance to make this record. Thank you, Joeri and Peter from Studio 150 for your time, work and the audacity to realize a brave experiment: to record for DSD format.

Special thanks to my dear friends and beautiful musicians Lennart and George for being in this adventure with me. Having played together in different bands and various formations for many years, allowed us to prepare for the recording in 3 days. We spent 3 days in the studio. So a week later all the music I had composed over a few months was captured in an extremely short time and ready to be released.

All tracks on this album are recorded in one take, all musicians playing together in the same space. This space was the beautiful studio 150, Bethlehemkerk in Amsterdam.

Since 2008 I have been singing and listening to a lot of Brazilian music – *samba, bossa nova, choro, forró*. I was very happy when great Brazilian guitarist Rogério Bicudo agreed to record the beautiful samba *Esta Melodia* with me for “Side by Side” (written by a singer José Bispo Clementino dos Santos, known as Jamelão). I remember hearing *Esta Melodia* for the first time and instantly feeling that it’s *mine*, that I love it. Once in a while there is a song that speaks to me very directly, strongly and I know immediately that I have to sing it!

Rogério’s *Clube do Samba* monthly events are a great initiative for Brazilian music in Amsterdam and I’m always looking forward to the next one. Thank you, Rogério, for the music and friendship.

For the suite *Viena Pati Dvēselīte* (Alone The Soul) I asked 8 friends, all great singers, to join. Thank you my dear Saskia, Una, Laurien, Femke, Sanne, Irene, Māra, Anna-Maria for bringing your amazing, diverse voices, improvisational ideas, warmth and friendship. Having met each one of you in different time and place, I was really grateful that we could all be there together.

Viena Pati Dvēselīte is a cycle of 3 poems I wrote in Latvian in the Latvian folk song form *daina*, using rhythm, rhymes and motives from folklore. It’s a story of each soul coming into this world alone and leaving it alone. In the meantime we are all connected into brightest light and darkest depths of being.

*All beautiful souls meet in the crown of light /
Every little piece of dust carries the light of it.
All beautiful souls meet in the depths of the waters,
Every tiny drop of dew is the steam of the darkness
of the depths of the Earth.*

The music is mostly improvised with a few guidelines that we were all keeping in mind. The idea and the main motive came to me in December 2017 while I was queueing at a coffee shop.

The idea of the song You’re Right came to me one night just before falling asleep. So I recorded it on my phone and finished the song the next day. Some of the other compositions, Side By Side, Counting Frogs, A Thought From Your Reality, Sometimes I Find A Sometimes and Short Summary are written a few years ago and I found this a great opportunity to revitalise them and have a new, fresh look at these songs.

Mosen’ Zeileit’ Viesti Nesa is an arrangement of a Latvian folksong about a girl whose sister promises her hand to a man who she doesn’t love but she has to keep the promise and get married to him. This marriage means work through the days and tears through the nights for this girl. Finally she runs back to her mother. This arrangement brought me the Best Composition Prize of the “Dutch Jazz Competition 2012” and I’m glad to have it on a record now.

All in all it was an inspirational and exciting project and I had an incredible amount of fun!



Laura POLENCE (1987) is a singer and composer from Latvia, since year 2007 based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Her musical background of Latvian folkmusic and 12 years of European academic music studies have merged with strong interest in modern jazz, the popular music of Brazil and singer-songwriter-like compositional ideas in the last years. Master of Performing Arts with a degree from The Amsterdam Conservatory (Amsterdam School of Arts). In 2010 studied for one semester at the Temple University (Philadelphia, USA).

She is working with her Laura Polence Project. Her work as a singer in the past 5 years is connected to the following bands: *Snowapple*, *How Town*, *Kaja Draksler Octet*, *Native Aliens Ensemble*, *Resamba*, touring with *Latvian Voices* between 2011 and 2016.

Laura won the Best Composition Prize of the "Dutch Jazz Competition 2012" and with the vocal group *Latvian Voices* she won the 1st Prize and gold medal in the category „Female Chamber Choir“ and „Champions of the World Choir Games“ in the World Choir Games 2012 in Cincinnati, USA.

Laura's arrangement of the Latvian folk song "Stāvēju, dziedāju" was selected for the Latvian Youth Song and Dance Festival 2015 and performed by 10000 children.



Lennart HEYNDELS (1990) is a bassist and composer from Belgium. He is currently based in Brussels and collaborates with a wide variety of national and international artists. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, the Conservatory of Amsterdam and CNSMDP in Paris.

He has been awarded several prizes among which: Keep An Eye Award 2017 (with How Town), Theater Aan Zee Jong Muziek 2014 (with How Town), Dutch Jazz Competition 2014 (with Loran Witteveen Quintet), European Young Artist's Jazz Award Burghausen 2013 (with Matiss Cudars Quartet) and Prinses Christina Jazz Concours 2010 (with Alex Koo/Lennart Heyndels trio and Matiss Cudars Trio).

Lennart has performed all over the world (including Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, Latvia, Kenia, South-Korea, China, Canada etc.) and has performed at major festivals and concert venues such as Bimhuis, Flagey, Ancienne Belgique, Handelsbeurs, Bijloke, Lantaren/Venster, North Sea Jazz, Jazz Middelheim, X-Jazz (Berlijn), Safaricom Jazz Festival (Nairobi), Vancouver Jazz Festival and many others.



George DUMITRIU is a Romanian guitarist, violist and violinist residing in Amsterdam. Graduate of the Bucharest National University of Music, he won more than 15 national and international prizes as a classical violinist. As a jazz guitarist he studied in Groningen (granted with the Huygens Scholarship), New York and Conservatory of Amsterdam, researching live electronics.

Co-leading the group Re-bop Unit, he recorded a CD featuring the New York saxophonist Dick Oatts. In 2007 he joined the European Jazz Academy Big-Band led by Peter Herbolzheimer, performing in Europe and having guests such as Benny Golson and Herb Geller. As one of the four finalists of 2011 Brussels Jazz Orchestra International Contest, had the chance to compose and conduct one of the most prestigious big-bands. Important collaborations: Ambrose Akinmusire, Theo Loevendie, Michel Godard, Ack van Rooyen, Michael Moore.

As a leader of the group DUMItRIO, he released the albums Proverbe (TryTone 2017) and Future Nostalgia in 2014 (FN01). He performs internationally with a variety of ensembles (Sanem Kalfa, Kaja Draksler Octet, Hidden Myth, Romanian Jazz Collective, Newstalgia, Steven Kamperman Trio, Alex Simu Quintet). Founding member of the I/O music-theater platform, he experiments with live electronics, composition and improvisation.

He is a guest teacher at the Amsterdam Conservatory and Prins Claus Conservatory in Groningen.



Rogério BICUDO (1957) guitarist, singer and composer, started his musical career at a very young age. He started to play the guitar at the age of six, becoming professional at the age of twelve, playing mainly Brazilian popular music.

After finishing his studies at Escola de Música Villa-Lobos in Rio de Janeiro he started to study classical guitar with Odair Assad. In 1982 he moved to Spain and continued his classical studies there at the Real Conservatório de Madrid. Since 1988 he has been living in the Netherlands.

Despite his classical background, Bicudo is a dedicated interpreter and composer of Samba, Choro and other rhythms of the rich Brazilian Popular Music. Choro is a virtuoso music genre from Rio de Janeiro which includes many improvisation elements. In Rogério Bicudo's music one can hear the influences of both worlds; with his great musicality he plays with the technique of a chamber musician and the swing of a popular artist.

He lives in Amsterdam and Rio de Janeiro, influences of both worlds can be heard in his music. With jazzy swinging sounds and rhythms, without losing traditional values. Rogério Bicudo invites you to take a dive into the intimacy of a unique and very special musical universe!



PRODUCED BY
Jonas Sacks for NativeDSD Music / Just Listen Records

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01	VIENA PATI DVĒSELĪTE (Part I)	3:38
02	VIENA PATI DVĒSELĪTE (Part II)	2:22
03	VIENA PATI DVĒSELĪTE (Part III)	2:50
04	SIDE BY SIDE	2:03
05	YOU'RE RIGHT	4:02
06	SHORT SUMMARY	5:14
07	COUNTING FROGS	2:40
08	SOMETIMES I FIND A SOMETIMES	1:37
09	A THOUGHT FROM YOUR REALITY	2:15
10	MOSEŅ' ZEILEIT' VIESTI NESA	5:09
11	ESTA MELODIA	3:50

All songs written by Laura Polence, except 10 is an arrangement of a Latvian folksong and 11 is written by Jamelão.

Laura Polence - voice, compositions

George Dumitriu - viola, guitar

Lennart Heyndels - double bass

Rogerio Bicudo - guitar on 11

Sanne Huijbregts, Saskia Oving, Māra Bērziņa, Laurien Schreuder, Una Bergin,

Anna-Maria Nietschke, Irene Rametta, Femke Smit - voices on 1,2,3