



Liner Notes

by Nadia Basurto

DONA is a collection of songs that came from a very personal place—somewhere between memory and imagination, vulnerability and strength. It's not so much a concept album as it is a diary in sound; each piece is a moment I needed to put into music because words alone weren't enough.

This album is about being a woman, yes—but more than that, it's about what we carry: the fears we don't show, the stories we inherit, the love we give even when we're empty, and the little flames of hope we protect in the darkest moments. I didn't write these songs with an agenda in mind. They arrived slowly, sometimes painfully, sometimes all at once—like a deep breath after holding it for too long.

Some songs are carefully written. Others are improvised in the moment, capturing something I couldn't plan or script. That was important to me: to leave space for the unknown, to trust the voice as it emerges—not polished, not perfect, but real. You'll hear Catalan, Spanish, and English in these pieces, because that's the way I think, feel, and dream. Each language carries a different kind of intimacy, a different flavor of truth.

I've always believed that music can hold space for things we don't understand yet—for the sadness we don't want to name, for the tenderness we forget to offer ourselves. With DONA, I wanted to hold that space—for myself, and maybe for you too. It's an invitation to feel without judgment. To sit with the weight of things, but also to dance with them a little. To cry, to breathe, to remember what it means to be alive.

There's a part of me in every note of this album, but I also hope you'll find a part of yourself in it too.

Thank you for listening — Nadia



Lyrics and Translations

1. Una Dona

Una dona que mira curiosa,
inofensiva i amb molta por,
perquè tot ha sigut molt difícil
l'amor, la vida, l'han decepcionat

Temorosa, però molt amorosa
i amb somriure sempre dibuixat
i amb mirada perduda en històries
d'equipatges que mai ha oblidat

Somnava i vivia en el somni,
del que una dia va despertar,
res era com ella imaginava
les flors no podien parlar

I la lluna es volia amagar
i el sol no volia sortir
i un viatge entre els quatre planetes,
va atrapar-la per només lluir

A Woman

A woman gazes with curiosity,
harmless but filled with fear,
for everything has been so hard,
love and life have both let her down.

Afraid, but still full of love,
with a smile always drawn on her face,
her eyes wander through memories,
baggage she has never let go.

She dreamed, living inside that dream,
until one day she had to wake,
nothing was as she imagined—
even flowers could not speak.

And the moon tried to hide,
the sun refused to rise,
and a journey through the four planets
trapped her just to shine.

2. La Jaula

Mi cuerpo como una cárcel,
retiene mi alma,

pero mi mente libre sobrevive
con una esperanza,
una chispa, una llama

Piensas, desesperas, concretando
sentimientos

Según los minutos que pasan
a tus pies se lanzan,
los lloros, las lágrimas,
el tema de la vida es una puta mentira

Piensas desesperas, concretando
sentimientos y según esos minutos avanzan....

Y esos segundos que nunca esperan,
viven pensando que un día volverán

The Cage

My body, like a prison,
holds my soul captive,

but my mind, still free, survives
with a hope,
a spark, a flame.

You think, you despair, trying to grasp your
feelings.

As the minutes pass,
they fall at your feet—
the cries, the tears,
life feels like a damn lie.

You think, you despair, trying to grasp your
feelings as the minutes crawl by...

And those seconds that never wait,
live believing they will return one day.

3. The First Woman (Improvisation 3)

Once upon a time,
The first woman was born
She was so strong
She brewed a life

Mother nature
took care of us
To bring us life
without a measure

and Love

4. Lullaby for the One that Couldn't Sleep

She'd love to sleep at night
misses days with rays of sun
being lost in corridors
of existence without course

Used to a way of life
where darkness could be all about

Days don't seem to meet an end
for those nights are too intense

All those worries from before
seem to vanish in the night/dark

But the morning rooster sings and can't cope
with all those things

Doesn't sleep when stars are bright
lets her eyes rest for tonight

'Cause the rooster is going to sing
and the city will begin

She doesn't sleep at night
misses days with rays of sun
Maybe tomorrow will be bright
so just please sleep for tonight



5. Peus Mans i Ulls

No pensa en res
la ment en blanc
el sol brillant
i el mar sonant

Peus mans i ulls
i ulls i veu
veu per cantar
cantar i cridar

Cantar a la llibertat
del moment,
del sospir ,
la por, l'amor, l'angoixa
i l'alegria!

I cridar contra el vent un t'estimo, vida,
t'estimo i en vull més!

I amb aquests peus caminar
lluny, aprop, aprop i lluny, allà on batega el cor

Allà on són els de casa,
allà on són els de més enllà
allà on un record
et retroba i t'emociona.

Feet, Hands and Eyes

Don't think about anything,
a blank mind,
the bright sun,
the sound of the sea.

Feet, hands, and eyes,
and eyes and voice,
a voice to sing,
to sing and shout.

Singing of freedom—
the moment,
the sigh,
the fear, the love, the anxiety,
and the joy!

And shouting into the wind, "I love you, life, I
love you, and I want more!"

And with these feet, walk
far and near,
near and far,
wherever the heart beats.

Wherever home is,
where those beyond are,
where a memory
finds you again and moves you.

6. Cançó Per a Tu

Cau la nit,
i els estels volen els teus ulls, teus ulls

Terra i cel,
un regal preparen per tu, per tu

Com de bonic és el món,
com mai te n'has adonat?
Si no trepitges ben ferm
tot s'esvairà

Vine amb mi,
trobaràs un món ple per tu, de tu

Song for You

Night falls,
and the stars need your eyes, your eyes to
shine.

Earth and sky,
they are preparing a gift for you, for you.

How beautiful the world is—
how have you never noticed?
If you don't stand firmly,
everything will disappear.

Come with me,
you'll find a world full of you, for you.

7. There's a Place

There's a place where you can hear
the birds are singing in your ears
and there's a place where trouble is
a wave that fades in the wilderness

There's a place where you can hear
the waves are whispering in your ears
and there's a place where you can dream
awake
no matter what no one says

Mist witnesses, glorious awake
of nature's great
bewitching waves
make this dream alive

There's a place where you can hear
the waves are whispering in your ears
and there's a place where you can dream
awake
no matter what no one says

Mist witnesses, glorious awake
of nature's great
bewitching waves
make this dream alive

She Said Goodbye

She said goodbye
she left this world
never looked back
for good

After a while
she took a look
found out those days
had joy, joy

When she could see all
what she left
she had some tears
full of love, love

8. There Are No Goodbyes That Last Forever (Improvisation)

There are no goodbyes
There are no goodbyes
That last forever

No goodbyes that last forever
Their eyes then look out!
See the sun!

That will stay there forever, forever, forever!
Forever
Forever

9. Les Paraules (Improvisation)

Paraula d'una viatgera
Que ha passat tormentes i tormentes
Que ha donat més del que podia
Però ha seguit amb pas ben ferm

Traveler

Word of a traveler
who has lived storms and pains
who has given more than she could
But has continued with a firm step

Reflections on the Songs

1. Una Dona

This song is dedicated to a young spirit who never really grew up and stayed in denial. Everyone cares for her, no one wants to break her—she's simply accepted and loved. She has faced tough times but always remained positive, convinced that things would get better. She keeps pushing forward, though without the tools for real change. Maybe, over time, she's learned something along the way.

2. La Jaula / The Cage

Back in Barcelona, I met many South American friends and discovered the Milonga, a style of music that became the perfect canvas for this desperate text. It's about feeling trapped in a cage, where no light comes through and you're unable to react. Time feels static, heavy, and you blame everything—time, weather—except yourself. It's about those moments when life doesn't work, and you're stuck in a cycle of inaction.

3. The First Woman (Improvisation)

This short improvisation captures the strength of the first woman, the life she created, and the nurturing power of nature and love. It's a reflection on creation, both primal and pure, where life and love are intertwined.

4. Lullaby for the One That Couldn't Sleep

This lullaby is dedicated to someone close to me, capturing the struggle and loneliness that sometimes comes with managing the overwhelming burdens of life. It's about the nights that feel endless, when sleep won't come, and the weight of the day seems too much to bear. It's a simple wish for rest, for peace, and for a brighter tomorrow. Sometimes, all you need is a hug, a hand, and some understanding to help you through.

5. Peus, Mans i Ulls

This piece came naturally. I was sitting on my terrace, the sun on my face, the wind gently blowing against my skin, and my foot started tapping. The words flowed, describing the simplicity of being alive, feeling good, and accepting all of life's colors—its light and dark moments. It's about being present, missing home, and finding beauty in even the smallest things. Life is a journey, full of contrasts, but we embrace it all. Long live life.

6. Cançó per a Tu

This song is very special to me. It's the first song I ever composed. It began with a bassline, an ostinato against a beautiful Dorian chord, and the melody just flowed from there. The lyrics were inspired by my younger sister, who was struggling through adolescence at the time. I wanted to remind her of the beauty in the world and the life that awaited her, beyond the challenges she was facing at home and in life.

7. There's a Place

This song is about an imagined place where nature provides a sense of peace and safety. A place where the troubles of life dissolve like waves in the wilderness. It's a feeling of connection to the natural world—a place where you can be truly awake and alive, no matter what others say. For me, this is the beauty of nature: it's always there, offering calm and clarity if we listen. It is also a bit of a homage to the music that inspired me as a kid.

8. She Said Goodbye

This song imagines the thoughts of someone who has passed away, looking back at the life and love they left behind. Although there's sadness in saying goodbye, there's also joy and love in the memories. The music reflects both the melancholy and the beauty of this moment. The song came together very naturally—the melody and lyrics poured out during the first listen to the music, which was suggested by Niels. It's a reflection on how love lingers even after someone is gone. These lyrics try to have a life of their own, so sometimes they are improvised from version to version—sometimes the feeling is sadder, sometimes more positive.

9. There Are No Goodbyes That Last Forever (Improvisation)

A final whisper of hope and eternity. In its simplicity, it carries a profound truth: that goodbyes may hurt, but they don't last. The sun, like love, remains. This free-form improvisation closes the album with a soft, affirming echo.



Colophon

JL025 - Nadia Basurto - DONA

1. Una Dona	3:47
2. La Jaula/ The Cage	4:05
3. The First Woman (Improvisation)	3:06
4. Lullaby for the One that Couldn't Sleep	3:08
5. Peus, Mans I Ulls	3:58
6. Cançó per a Tu	4:44
7. There's a Place	3:09
8. She Said Goodbye	2:18
9. There are no Goodbyes that Last Forever (Improvisation)	3:59

Total time 32.14

Credits

Production: Kerkenstein Productions
Producer, Recording Engineer, mastering: Jared Sacks
DSD Mastering Engineer: Tom Caulfield
Recording Location: Banana Bread Studios, Herwijnen
Recording Date: June, 2021
Microphones: Brüel & Kjaer 4006, Schoeps
Digital Converter: Horus / Merging Technologies
Recording resolution: DSD 256
Editing resolution: DXD
Editing Software: Pyramix Workstation
Pre-Amplifiers: Rens Heijnis - custom made
Mastering Room: Grimm LS1
All Cables: Van den Hul

Producer: Jonas Sacks
Production manager: Jara Holdert
Cover design: Jara Holdert
Cover photography: Arjen Ottema / Rodscone
Session photography: Jonas Sacks
Catering: Lydi Groenewegen
Lead singer, arrangements: Nadia Basurto
Bass: Clemens van der Feen
Guitar: Jesse van Ruller
Marimba, Percussion: Niels Meliefste