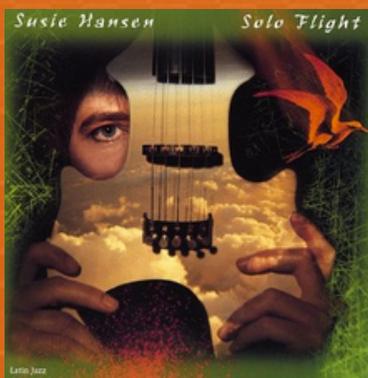


Susie Hansen - Solo Flight *(translated from the Spanish)*



Solo Flight is the debut CD of American violinist Susie Hansen for the Jazz Caliente label issued in 1993. This virtuoso musician of Scandinavian descent was born in Chicago and has lived since the end of the decade of the 80s in Los Angeles. She was a student of her father, James Hansen, a violinist in the Chicago Symphony for 37 years, and it is to him that Susie dedicates this production.

Although Hansen earned her degree in Mathematics and a master's degree in Computer Science, her initial musical experience was as a classical and jazz violinist. Hansen had her first contact with Afro-Cuban music when Victor Parra, who seeing her play the violin with her jazz quintet in Chicago, invited her to join his band the Mambo Express, due to the absence of his violinist.

She made a large contribution to the groups of Francisco Aguabella and Bobby Matos in LA, and recorded with the legendary "Jazz On The Latin Side All Stars" led by Jose Rizo in their volumes 1 and 2 for the Cubop label.

Solo Flight contains 11 pieces, three of which were composed by Hansen ("You Name It," "Solo Flight" and "Es Muy Tarde"), and three more of which she composed together with trombonist and arranger David Stout. Hansen also wrote the arrangements for the cuts "Solo Flight," "Es Muy Tarde," and "Just to See Her." The Salsa number, "Bella Maria De Mi Corazon," better known as "Beautiful Maria Of My Soul" and initially included on the soundtrack of the film "The Mambo Kings" in 1992, was arranged by David Stout for the occasion. This cut, one of our favorites (along with the cha cha cha "Es Muy Tarde" and the cha cha cha-blues "Azucar," composed by Mark Gutierrez), has three separate solos: Susie Hansen on violin, Tony Rosa (LP Rumba Ensemble, Arturo O'Farrill) on congas and Ronnie Gutierrez on timbales. Jose "Papo" Rodriguez, who was part of Mazacote Orchestra, Johnny Nelson Orchestra and Orchestra Versailles, played the bongo in some of the cuts, as did Angel Figueroa.