

Viktoria Mullova and friends capture the spirit and atmosphere of Rio in this collection of songs by some of the greatest Brazilian popular music composers of the 20th century such as Claudio Nucci,

Antonio Carlos Jobim and Caetano Veloso. Joined by musicians from Rio and the UK in superb new arrangements of classic Brazilian songs, *Stradivarius in Rio* is a wonderfully uplifting album that will transport you in an instant to exotic, sultry, vibrant, colourful and romantic Rio!



VIKTORIA MULLOVA violin MATTHEW BARLEY cello PAUL CLARVIS triangle (1), tamborim, agogo, scraper, repanique (2), caxixi (4), drums (1, 5, 7), box and t bag (8), drums (1, 5, 7, 9), shaker (7, 9, 11), cymbal (10) LUIS GUELLO caxixi, shaker, surdo, cuica, caixa (2), udo, cahon (4), drums (4, 8, 11), pandeiro (6, 10), tamborim (10) CARIOCA FREITAS guitar

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People have asked me why I have done a project that is quite different for me and recorded an album of Brazilian music. The answer is quite simple... I love this music.

Stradivarius in Rio is my third 'non-classical' approach, after Through the Looking Glass and The Peasant Girl, on both of which I collaborated with wonderful musicians. But this is the first project I have led on my own, from choosing Brazilian songs to persuading some of my favourite musicians to collaborate with me. The idea of recording the songs came about over the course of several informal gigs and jams with friends over the years. I always loved getting together with this bunch of creative people, including guitarist Carioca, who comes from Rio, cellist Matthew Barley and two percussionists: Brazilian Luis Guello, and Paul Clarvis, with whom I have recorded two previous discs. Somehow after every concert or jam session I felt rejuvenated and alive, both in my music-making and as a person.

So last August we went to Rio de Janeiro and recorded the album in just three (thrilling!) evenings...

When I first went to play with friends in Brazil a couple of years ago I took with me a very cheap violin, sometimes renting it from a local shop, because of the high humidity level. For the recording, though, I took my Strad with me, because we had a very nice studio with air conditioning and the sound of the instrument was so important.

One of the essential things I learned while preparing this recording was how to improvise, something I've never done in my life. It was a very challenging, but in the end very satisfying thing for me to start learning.

I was nervous before the recording, as I had never done anything like this before, but I hope that in the end we have created an album that many people will enjoy.

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Special thanks are due to Carioca Freitas, who introduced me to this wonderful music and was instrumental in the process of arranging it for our ensemble. Viktoria Mullova



ALSO AVAILABLE FROM VIKTORIA MULLOVA ON ONYX







BACH: SONATAS AND PARTITAS





Producer: Sonia Slany

Executive producer: Viktoria Mullova

Executive producer for ONYX: Matthew Cosgrove

Recording location: Studio Visom Digital, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 9-11 August 2013

Recording engineer: Fabio A. Guimarães

Assistant engineer: Herbert Faria

Mixed, edited and mastered at Abbey Road Studios, London, by Andrew Dudman

Assistant editors: Viktoria Mullova, Sonia Slan

Page three (clockwise from top left): Matthew Barley, Carioca Freitas, Luis Guello, Paul Clarvis

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