



Vocal Sampling

Vocal Sampling, nominated for two Grammy awards for their album "Cambio de Tiempo", is a band where the instruments are sung instead of played. Not only the lead vocal and the background choruses, but all the instruments of the Latin orchestra - percussion, horns, keyboards, bass, and all the other instruments are vocally reproduced. There is no technical trickery and no other instruments.

Similar to the doo-wop groups of New York city, Vocal Sampling was formed after school and between classes, standing on the sweeping lawns of Havana's National Superior Institute of Arts. Poney GROSS, of Belgium's ZIG ZAG WORLD, met the group in Cuba while they were still students, and encouraged them to continue this approach. He arranged several European tours for them.

Very soon they began to be noticed by artists such as Bobby Mc FERRIN, Peter GABRIEL and David BYRNE. Gabriel brought them to his Real World Studios in Bath, England, where they recorded two songs and Byrne included one of their earliest recordings on his Lukua Bop compilation, Diablo Al Infierno.

1992 the group met producer team Sammy FIGUEROA and Rachel FARO. who arranged for them to be signed to Paroli/BMG Music of Köln, Germany. Faro Figueroa Productions produced the group's first album, which attracted the notice of Sire Record's president Seymour STEIN, who immediately began steps to acquire the master. The first album, "Una Forma Mas", released in 1995 on Sire/Elektra Records and Warner world wide, was a musical journey through Cuban musical culture, demonstrating several styles of classic Cuban music.

In 1995 the group made an historic tour of the United States where they were an instant success in San Francisco, New York and Puerto Rico, attracting the attention of luminaries such as Paul SIMON and Carlos SANTANA. Since then, they have continued to tour throughout Europe and Latin America, also with great success.

In the summer of 1996 they were invited to appear at the 30th Montreux Jazz Festival as the special guests of Quincy JONES for his 50th anniversary, where they shared the stage with Chaka KHAN, Phil COLLINS, David SANDBORN, Mick HUCKNALL and Toots THIELEMANS. In 1997, they were invited for a 3 weeks tour in Japan. Vocal Sampling released their second album, "De Vacaciones" (East West), produced by Rachel Faro and the band.

"De Vacaciones" is almost totally composed of original compositions and arrangements in a modern salsa style and is sure to be recognized as one of the most amazing a-cappella achievements in many years. In late 1997, the band, created by Rene BANOS, Abel SANABRIA and Reinaldo SANLER, included Jorge NUNEZ, Renato MORA and Oscar PORRO. This artistic restructuring was executed in order to increase the musical quality of the band and to widen their potential, for example the field of the classical singing.

1998 is the year of their CD 'Live in Berlin' released by Ashe Records. This year Vocal Sampling won the Latin Grammy Award. In 1999, the band went to Japan, Venezuela, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Isle of Reunion, Canada, Mexico and all over Europe where they made a huge impact at the BBC Proms in August 2000 when they performed to a sold-out Royal Albert Hall. Their '99 album was called, "Cambio de Tiempo" or "Change of Tempo". Another two nomination for the Latin Grammy Award followed in 2001.

Since then numerous Festival appearances plus several tours through Europe strengthened their fame of being *'The most exciting a cappella group to hit the scene in years...'*

Plans for 2003 included a major tour in Japan and Asian, festival performances at the Vancouver Jazz Festival, OCM Marin in Martinique and others. Performances in Europe in summer 2004 revealed an overwhelming response of media and audience and also in 2005 Vocal Sampling performed very successful on European stages.

In 2006 the band went back to the roots to gain creativity for new material. This step was well chosen and they recorded enough material for a complete new Album (Akapelleando/SKIP Records, 2007) that has already been released in Cuba at the end of 2006.

After inspiring festival shows in 2007 till 2010 (e.g. Latinoamericando Festival Milano, Jazz Festival Copenhagen) they return Europe's stages together with their new show and album in 2011.