

Esperanza

By

Victor Samalot

Written by

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A little world beat and a lush Latin element is now upon us, via this fantastically vibrant new offering entitled **Esperanza** by **Victor Samalot**.

Mofongo is our starting point, and a more lively expression of beat and harmony you would not wish to find. Samalot's skills on guitar are utterly supreme here, and the energy created is a fine beginning to our latest musical sojourn.

We now slide gracefully into **Café Puerto Rico**, where we can chill to the Latin beats of the colourful narrative created by the composer and performer. The display here is incredibly smooth and very carefully played; this would suit any coffee shop here in the Mediterranean, let alone Puerto Rico.

The title track is always an open canvas for the artist to state his overall purpose for the release, and this moment of glory goes to the beautifully played and very cool opus entitled **Esperanza**. There is everything to love about this track, but overall I enjoyed the interplay with the artists' guitars and the added instrumentation.

The tempo picks up and percussion hits the energy button with a stated intent, so grand, a passionate fluency now emerges as Samalot manifests a really dramatic piece, one that is sure to thrill the fans and live audiences with a flare. **El Torero** is right in the territory of one of my favourite bands *Incendio* and incorporates that same fire and breath taking performance ethic.

Now here is a track packed with suspense, it's called **El Hombre Sin Nombre**, which I think means the man with no name. This is an amazingly ambient

composition that may well surprise a few people, it hovers like Floyds *Shine on Crazy Diamond* and sets a scene with such craft and panache, that *Clint Eastwood* should be calling the artist right away to use this music in his next movie, an absolutely outstanding track and easily one of my favourites from the album.

That familiar swagger is back with the next offering called **Struttin**. Samalot has created a really fun piece here, which would lift any mood and bring a little light filled charm into any dark day.

As we stroll through the back streets of the release we come across another smooth arrangement entitled **La Piazza**. One of the things I love to do, is find a place like this and people watch, just be in the moment, and I think next time I do that, I am going to be listening to this piece, and more than likely the whole album.

The last doorway but one is inspired and called **Streets of Barcelona**. At just under two minute, Samalot has produced a narrative that illustrates this city to perfection, depicting its vibrancy and colour with ease.

The last, but far from least track from the album is called, and quite appropriately, **One for the Road**. The performance on guitar here is persuasive and almost has a little rock ethic contained within, leaving us with a smile on our faces as we come to the end of this lively magical musical journey.

Esperanza is one of those albums you will never tire of; it has flare and charm and also manifests a wonderful sense of ambience as well. Esperanza is a collection of songs, created by Victor Samalot, a man who clearly loves to play from his soul and create a truly vivacious and pulsating rhythm whilst doing so; this is one album you're never going to want to put down.