

# Music Reviews



By Samir Shukla

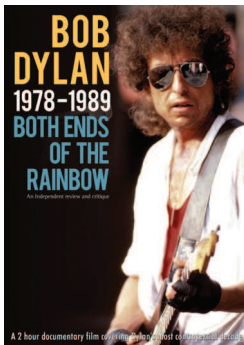
## Susana Baca Seis Poemas (Luaka Bop) CD



Peruvian vocalist and songwriter Baca sings poems by Latin poets. Toning her voice for poems rather than songs, Baca expands her prowess on this six-song E.P. The recording is musically flavored, albeit in sparse and unobtrusive manner, with Latin jazz and folk, and occasionally, a soft

African percussive beat. The poems are turned into folk songs with Baca's style that whispers, croons, and scats the words with guitar, flute, Cajon and percussion giving depth, without overpowering the voice. She sings Federico García Lorca's "Los Lagartos" (The Lizards), set to music by Paco Ibáñez. She covers three poems by Chbuca Granda, "El Bosque Armado (La Canoa)" (The Armed Forest [The Canoe]), "El Fusil del Poeta" (The Poet's Gun), and "Un Cuento Silencioso" (Silent Story), "Venadito de los Montes" (Mountain Deer), with words by Mario Florián and music by Juan Luis Pereyra Del Mar and jams on the longest tune, the traditional folk song "Resbalosas" (Slippery ones). The only bad thing here is there are only six songs/poems on the album, clocking in around 25 minutes. Largely unsung north of the Rio Grande, Baca's voice and songcraft are Peruvian and Latin music treasures.

## Bob Dylan Both Ends of the Rainbow 1978-1989 (Chrome Dreams) DVD



American poet, songwriter, singer and musician Bob Dylan is still going strong, after a 5-decade iconic career. *Both Ends of the Rainbow* features an independent review and analysis of the period of Dylan's career beginning in the late 70's that marked his conversion to Christianity and release of three gospel recordings, his slow return to secular music throughout the 80's to 1989 with the

release of his moody classic, the Daniel Lanois produced *Oh Mercy*. This 2-hour documentary features interviews and analyses with producers, musicians, reviewers, biographers, and people close to Dylan during this decade of spiritual exploration and realign-

ing of his songcraft. As one of the interviewees points out, the 1980s were an odd decade for Dylan as alternative, hip-hop and techno dance music ruled the airwaves and a roots singer like Dylan felt like an odd man out. Not that Dylan has ever had to prove himself. The interviewees include: *Shot of Love* producer Chuck Plotkin; engineer on *Infidels* and *Empire Burlesque*, Josh Abbey; Daniel Lanois' assistant producer for *Oh Mercy*, Malcolm Burn; music collaborator and lead guitarist on *Empire Burlesque*, Ted Perlman; legendary Jamaican rhythm partners who featured on *Infidels*, Sly and Robbie; Guitarist and bandleader for *Empire Burlesque* and *Knocked Out Loaded*, Ira Ingber. The documentary sheds further light on this expository decade for Dylan and will be informative for long-time fans, Dylan history buffs as well as casual observers.



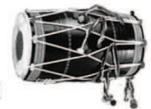
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