

**CD REVIEW**

**ARTIST: AKUA DIXON**

**TITLE: AKUA DIXON**

**LABEL: AKUA'S MUSIC**



**TUNES:** Haitian Fight Song / Alone Together / Freedom / It Never Entered My Mind\* / A Gozar Con Mi Combo / Moon River / Libertango / Lush Life+ / Besame Mucho / Poinciana. 51:29.

**PERSONNEL:** Dixon, cel, vcl\*; John Blake Jr., Regina Carter, Patrisa Tomassini, Gwen Laster, Chala Yancey, vln; Kenny Davis, b; Ina Paris, vla; Orion Turre, d; Andromeda Turre, vcl+.

**Cellist Akua Dixon applies the string quartet format to jazz pieces adding occasional help from voice, bass, drums and solo violin. She kicks off with a vigorous workout on Charles Mingus' "Haitian Fight Song" with the quartet's swinging helped along by bass, drums and a furious violin solo from the late John Blake. Elsewhere the spotlight violinist is Regina Carter**

who gets into a gutbucket hoedown groove on Duke Ellington's "Freedom" and turns seductive on Astor Piazzolla's "Libertango" while the unadorned quartet turns "Besame Mucho" into a sensual tango.

A slowly whirling version of "It Never Entered My Mind" features Dixon's hovering, wordless vocals and her daughter, Andromeda Turre, adds her big voice to a dramatic, hard-swinging "Lush Life". The real highlight, though, is "A Gozar Con Mi Combo" by the

great bassist Cachao Lopez, a murderously swinging Cuban descarga in which Blake, Carter, Ina Paris and bassist Kenny Davis take a delirious round of contrasting bowed or plucked solos. This is the finest moment of a very strong set.


Jerome Wilson  
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