

Flora Purim - Stories To Tell (1974)

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1 *Stories To Tell* 3:41 2 *Search For Peace* 5:53 3 *Casa Forte* 3:55 4 *Insensatez* 2:46
5 *Mountain Train* 3:14 6 *To Say Goodbye* 4:03 7 *Silver Sword* 5:40 8 *Vera Cruz (Empty Faces)* 4:12 9 *O Cantador / I Just Want To Be Here* 6:45 Flora Purim (vocals) Raul De Souza (trombone) George Duke (piano, keyboards) Earl Klugh (acoustic guitar) Carlos Santana (electric guitar) Miroslav Vitous, Ron Carter (bass) Airtto Moreira (drums, percussion) King Errisson (percussion)

Though her recordings for Chick Corea's *Return to Forever* provide a better introduction to her vocal talents, *Stories to Tell* is an excellent outing by Flora Purim and friends. Assisted by a cast of jazz/fusion all-stars led by husband Airtto Moreira, Purim shows off the wide range of her abilities: from wordless vocal soaring to songs with lyrics in English and Portuguese, from uptempo percussion-driven workouts to beautiful ballads. In addition to Airtto, the assembled cast includes bassists Miroslav Vitous and Ron Carter, keyboard wunderkind George Duke, guitarists Earl Klugh and Oscar Castro-Neves, and trombonist Raul de Souza. Also, Carlos Santana turns in one of his patented sizzling guitar solos on "Silver Sword." With material from Antonio Carlos Jobim, Vitous, Milton Nascimento, McCoy Tyner, and Purim herself, this is an album worth savoring. --- Jim Newsom, Rovi

Released in 1974, Flora's second Milestone set "Stories To Tell" was a bona fide classic. This time the group is based around the core of Duke, Moreira, guitarist Earl Klugh and conga player King Errisson, with Miroslav Vitous, Carlos Santana, Raul De Souza, Oscar Neves and others all playing important bit parts.

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The opening title track is built on an incredibly funky groove over which Purim glides around the intricately beautiful melody improvising phrases lifted from songs written for Return To Forever. Cuts such as this and 'Silver Sword' with its fantastic guitar solo from Santana seem to define the funky fusion side of her musical vision. Her vocalisation of McCoy Tyner's 'Search For Peace' shows an artist who can really sing jazz. The Brazilian songs on the album are fantastic, arranged in a fresh way that takes them apart from the original versions. 'Vera Cruz' has a distinctive arrangement that lifts the parts where the tempo is taken down, while Jobim's 'Insensatez' is a million miles from the soft bossa standard it had become in the 1960s. The final track is a medley of the classic 'O Cantador' with 'I Just Want To Be Here', a number developed by the musicians in the studio that reflects how at ease they felt creating the music on this album. "Stories To Tell" cemented Flora's reputation as one of the key vocalists of the era and she continued recording for Milestone throughout the 1970s, building up a body of work that continues to stand the test of time. ---Dean Rudland, acerecords.co.uk

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