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Anacaona is an orchestra made-up exclusively of fourteen women who play traditional Cuban music with a very modern sound. They are known in Cuba as “Las Mulatisimas Del saber” (the mulattas with flavor). Currently they are a must-see for the large salsa admiring audiences and are highly appreciated by the knowledgeable critics.

The orchestra was founded on February 17, 1932 by Concepción (‘Cuchito’) Castro and her sisters. It was the first all-women’s band to play the son (Cuban music’s highly predominant style). Two years after its founding the orchestra had the profile of a **jazz band** that plays traditional Cuban music. The Anacaonas presented their shows mostly at the renowned “Aires libres del Prado”, a typical open air Havana café at the time. They also travelled to North and South America, to some of the countries in the Caribbean, and to France. This period extended from the 40’s to the 60’s. One of *Anacaona’s* original members included **Grammy Award winning** artist **Omara Portuondo** from the award winning **Buena Vista Social Club**.

The Aguirre sisters, Georgia and Dora, are two musicians with degrees from the “Amadeo Roldan” Conservatory of Music in Havana. They joined the orchestra in 1983, when the original founders were still active and learned a great deal from them.

In 1987 Georgia Aguirre, being a worthy representative of the new generation and of such an important musical heritage, was given the management of the Anacaonas. Other young musicians, graduating from schools of music, came to join the girls of the Anacaonas. “Anacaona” created and performed the music of Molière’s play “**Le Bougeois Gentilhomme**” by adapting Jean-Baptiste Lully’s original score to Caribbean rhythms. That performance was directed by **Gérôme Savary**, the prestigious French director, and had its first night in Cuba in December of 1997, then played at the Metropolitan theater of Mexico D.F in March of 1998. The whole crew then went to **France** for this same show, performing at the **Théâtre National de Chaillot for 10 days**. The performances were very well attended by the French audience, which reacted with a lot of enthusiasm and admiration for the young Cuban girls. They had to give 4 additional concerts which were a total success.

Between June and **July of 1998** they went back to France, where this time they were also applauded in Marseilles, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Rouen, Montpellier, La Seyne sur Mer and again in Paris. Other **European countries** which enjoyed their art in **1998** were the following Holland, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Germany.

September, 1999 - U.S.A. Tour or Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey perform with world renowned artists Tito Puente.

Back from the U.S.A., Anacaona records its new Album “Lo que tu esperabas” (What you were waiting for) with the French company Lusafrica.

Starting in 2000...

- Mexico: Campeche Carnival (where they share the program with Celia Cruz and Jose Alberto (aka El Canario).
- Monaco: Cabaret Casino of Monte-Carlo with the show “Sabor de Habana” (Flavour of Havana).
- Mexico: Veracruz, Afro-Caribbean Festival and 4 towns in Jalapa State.
- Cape Verde (Africa) with well-known Cesaria Evora, live broadcast towards Portugal and other Portuguese speaking countries.

Film Shoots...

- “70 years later...” is a review of the “Anacaona” orchestra’s history; it pays tribute to the feminine movement which, beginning in the thirties, grows in strength in Cuba’s musical world mainly in the open air cafés of the Paseo del Prado in Havana.
- NHK Japanese television channel...a documentary on Cuban music.

ANACAONA, THE WOMEN’S ORCHESTRA OF CUBA

Recordings:

- 1991 CD “ANACAONA” AY! - PM Records
Musical Producer: Juan Formell (Founder of the ***Grammy Award Winning*** group ***Los Van Van***)
- 1994 CD “Cien lindas Cubanas” - Bis Music
Musical Producer: Jose Luis Cortes
- 1995 CD “Como un milagro” - Bis Music
Musical Producer: Pucho Lopez
- 2000 CD “Lo que tu esperabas” - Lusafrica
Musical Producer: Joaquin Betancourt
- 2008 CD “No lo puedo evitar...” - Bis Music
Musical Producers: Georgia Aguirre and Reinaldo Aguirre
- 2013 CD “Llora Si Te Duele” - Cuba Music
Musical Producers: Georgia Aguirre and Reinaldo Aguirre

NOTE: Anacaona can also be presented as a production show to include 8 - 12 dancers and cirque artists.