Lucia Sarmiento

BIOs · Saxophonist & Composer

Short Bio

Lucia Sarmiento is a powerhouse saxophonist and a playful, imaginative composer whose music knows no borders. Blending lyrical saxophone melodies with hard-funk grooves and intricate Afro-Peruvian rhythms, her sound is as captivating in a listening room as it is on a dance floor. Between 2021 and 2024 she toured arenas and stadiums around the world with Pitbull and Karol G. Today she is the host of PBS's *Sound Field* music education series. Recently she headlined the Twin Cities Jazz Festival and has taken her live show from Minneapolis to Tokyo and Santiago. Her debut album *Escape* has passed half a million streams. Rooted everywhere, boxed in nowhere, she's setting the new standard for 21st century Jazz Fusion.

Medium Bio

Lucia Sarmiento is a powerhouse saxophonist and a playful, imaginative composer whose music knows no borders. Blending lyrical saxophone melodies with hard-funk grooves and intricate Afro-Peruvian rhythms, her sound is as captivating in a listening room as it is on a dance floor. Rooted everywhere, boxed in nowhere, she's setting the new standard for 21st century Jazz Fusion.

Born in Peru and shaped by Minneapolis's funk and fusion scene, Lucia toured arenas and stadiums around the world with Pitbull and Karol G between 2021 and 2024. Today she leads her own band and is the host of PBS's *Sound Field* music education series. In 2026 she headlined the Twin Cities Jazz Festival, the Dakota Jazz Club's Block Party, Robin Club Omotesando in Tokyo, and Teatro San Ginés in Santiago, Chile. She has also played the main stage of the Elkhart Jazz Festival and headlined the Taste of Minnesota jazz stage.

Her collaborators include Bob Mintzer (Yellowjackets), Eric Gravatt (Weather Report), Kirk Johnson (Prince, Candy Dulfer), Ricky Peterson (Prince, Candy Dulfer, David Sanborn), smooth jazz star Steve Cole, and Kurt Elling. Based in Chicago and endorsed by Eastman, Theo Wanne, and D'Addario, Lucia pairs her big saxophone sound and imaginative writing with an unmistakable sense of joy and freedom. Her debut album *Escape* (2025) has passed half a million streams.

Long Bio

Lucia Sarmiento is a powerhouse saxophonist and a playful, imaginative composer whose music knows no borders. Blending lyrical saxophone melodies with hard-funk grooves and intricate Afro-Peruvian rhythms, her sound is as captivating in a listening room as it is on a dance floor. Rooted everywhere, boxed in nowhere, she's setting the new standard for 21st century Jazz Fusion.

Born and raised in Peru, Lucia toured arenas and stadiums around the world with Pitbull and Karol G between 2021 and 2024. Today she leads her own powerhouse quintet and is the host of PBS's *Sound Field* music education series. Her debut album *Escape* (2025) has passed half a million streams.

"Minneapolis raised me musically," she reflects. "It's a smaller city compared to LA or NYC, but the music scene is vibrant, steeped in the legacy of Prince. I began performing with Prince's long-time collaborators and Weather Report's legendary drummer Eric Gravatt right out of college. I got to explore every genre—from Minneapolis funk to brass band, and from Motown to free jazz. What was really important was that I came to develop my own sound."

In 2026 Lucia headlined the Twin Cities Jazz Festival, the Dakota Jazz Club's Block Party, Robin Club Omotesando in Tokyo, and Teatro San Ginés in Santiago, Chile, where she also taught a masterclass. Earlier highlights include the main stage of the Elkhart Jazz Festival and headlining the Taste of Minnesota jazz stage.

A Saxophone Performance Scholarship brought her to Minneapolis in 2013. Her collaborators include Bob Mintzer (Yellowjackets), Kirk Johnson (Prince, Candy Dulfer), Ricky Peterson (Prince, Candy Dulfer, David Sanborn), smooth jazz star Steve Cole, Kurt Elling, Grace Kelly, Antwaun Stanley, and Ella Briceno. She also recorded on Chad Lefkowitz-Brown's album *Open World*, featuring Randy Brecker, Arturo Sandoval, and Melissa Aldana.

On the educational side, Lucia loves connecting with young musicians and inspiring them with her story. She has led masterclasses across the US and Latin America, from Lima to Santiago to Guatemala. In January 2027 she will work with the South Middle School jazz band in Edinburg, Texas, and in February she joins them as a guest artist at the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) convention in San Antonio.

Now based in Chicago and endorsed by Eastman, Theo Wanne, and D'Addario, Lucia continues to carve her path as a bold new voice in contemporary jazz, pairing her big saxophone sound and imaginative writing with an unmistakable sense of joy and freedom. With over 150,000 social media followers, Lucia Sarmiento represents a new generation of artists bridging cultures and redefining what jazz can be.

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