

double take

"They have virtually perfect chemistry on stage..... Therein lies the magic of their act. There's no hype. No frills. Lots of thrills. No elaborate setup. Nothing fancy on stage. Just two beautiful people making beautiful music." - Errol De Cruz (Business Times)



The duo has always been one of the simplest yet most expressive forms in music. However, Double Take is not your ordinary duo. Roger Wang, a 30-year old solo fingerstyle guitarist, and 20-year old vocalist, Mia Palencia, began performing as a duo early February 2000. Young, ambitious and jazz incline, they decided to make a statement and delve into an arena, they felt, had not been attempted musically and locally.

By limiting themselves to the boundaries of a guitar / vocal format, Double Take developed a style of presenting music through minimalist arrangements. Roger takes responsibility for the entire music accompaniment by juggling bass lines, chords, melodic lines, and percussive bits all on one guitar. Providing just enough support to highlight Mia's rich, breathy and inviting voice.

Their ability to enhance each other's performance without intruding is what a successful musical partnership is all about. One will discover that neither voice nor the guitar dominates the other. It's like hand and glove so to speak

Double Take's debut album was completed in November 2000. The album captures the spirit of Double Take and stands as a portrait of what this duo is all about. Two years later, the album was remastered and repackaged by EQ Music Pte Ltd bringing Double Take's music all over Malaysia and Singapore. With music ranging from jazz standards to pop ballads, familiar tunes to original compositions, Double Take provides a refreshing break to all listeners by presenting music in its purest and most intimate form.

"Wang's effectively a one-man-band, a solo virtuoso whose mastery over finger-style acoustic guitar allows him to weave intricate patterns of chords, bass lines and lead riffs under Palencia's smooth, laid-back vocal style. She's as expressive as he's brilliant and I'm told you have to watch them live to really see how well they gel as a duo, whether in upbeat or pensive mood." - Sujesh Pavithran (The Star)

"Perhaps more important even than the purity of her tone or the near-perfection of her timing is the sense of wide-open abandon Palencia brings to her singingAnd like a young Ella, it's likely that Palencia does not yet have any idea of just how very good she is..... Wang displays an absolute mastery over his instrument, able to pull sounds out that most who pick up the guitar can only dream about..... They are creating some of the very best jazz anywhere on the planet." - by Jim Trageser [From the Fall 2003 edition of Turbula (www.turbula.net)]

" A marriage of heart and virtuosic technique, Double Take is a cosy guitar/vocal duo which breathes new life into jazz. Guitarist Roger Wang's finger-style layering accompanies Mia Palencia's scat vocalese with feline grace. Eminently listenable. " - Yeow Kai Chai (The New Straits Time - Singapore Edition)

"Guitar virtuoso Roger Wang and vocalist Mia Palencia have been turning airwaves into emotional therapy for the past six years. Like any good addiction, it sucks you in, and you won't want to get out. Their music is one that plays on long after the last note is sung, long after the last harmonic rings." - by Chan Siew Lian [www.kakiseni.com]