

ENDER THOMAS

This Venezuelan-born singer comes from a musical family, with a mom who was a singer while attending university (in college?) and gave him his love and passion for pursuing his muse. As a child, he listened to boleros, the traditional romantic ballads of his country, and learned to sing along to the soundtracks of classic Disney musicals like *Bambi*, *Dumbo*, *Pinocchio* and *The Little Mermaid*, “which I can recite to this very day.”

Thomas was awarded a voice scholarship to the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, but decided not to attend when he was asked to tour as lead singer for the legendary Venezuelan salsa band La Dimension Latina.

Moving to Miami eight years ago, he took a series of odd jobs like dishwasher, waiter and mover to support himself while recording demos on the side and appearing on albums by noted Latin performers like Alejandro Sanz and Guatemalan musician Ricardo Arjona, which is where he met Brazilian producer/musician Cesar Lemos.

It was Lemos who introduced him to Yanni and Ric Wake, when the pair was looking for someone who could sing in Spanish and invited him to join them for their new project.

“I figured, let’s give this a try because this is my passion,” he said. “Once I met them, I felt like I’d known them my entire life. We became fast friends.”

Given a chance to work with Yanni and Wake has spurred Thomas’ creativity. “Writing is the most beautiful form of expression a musician can have,” he says. “I have been offered an opportunity to say whatever I want to in musical form.”

The experience of being around such talent is not lost on Thomas. “This is like meeting all your superheroes,” he says. “The learning part is something that will never end for me. Everyone involved in this project has so much experience, wisdom and knowledge, it’s something, even in the small amount of time I’ve been here, I can’t even put into words. It’s already become part of me and continues to grow. I’m just trying to absorb it all every day. We don’t even have to be writing, playing or recording. Just being there and watching them work is fulfilling.”