

= Amar la Trama =

Amar la Trama (Loving the Plot) is the ninth studio album by Uruguayan recording artist Jorge Drexler . It was released by Warner Music on March 16 , 2010 , after a four @-@ year gap since the release of his last album of original music . Drexler worked as co @-@ producer , along with Matías Cella and Carles Campi Campón . The themes of the songs are his personal feelings inspired by journeys to Uruguay and Spain , his global wanderings , and the universal wonder of everyday moments .

The album received mostly positive reviews ; critics commended Drexler 's lyrics and his ability to perform live in front of a small audience during the recording sessions . The album entered the top five in Spain . The first single , " Una Canción Me Trajo Hasta Aquí " , also received praise . La Trama Circular , a DVD documentary about the recording sessions , is included on the standard edition of the album . On September 8 , 2010 , Amar la Trama received four nominations for the 11th Latin Grammy Awards .

= = Background = =

In 2005 , Jorge Drexler became the first Uruguayan to win an Academy Award for Best Original Song , for his composition " Al Otro lado del Río " from the film The Motorcycle Diaries . The following year , Drexler recorded and released 12 Segundos de Oscuridad (Twelve Seconds of Darkness) , an album that received a Grammy Award nomination . In 2008 , Cara B , a live album that includes his greatest hits along with cover versions of songs written by Leonard Cohen , Caetano Veloso , and Kiko Veneno , was released . Cara B also received a Grammy nomination . The same year , Drexler wrote the score for the film The City of Your Final Destination . During 2009 , Drexler worked with Colombian performer Shakira on the Spanish @-@ language versions of her singles " She Wolf " and " Did it Again " , and recorded Amar la Trama in Madrid , Spain . Drexler described the album as playful , without " the melancholy and anguish " of 12 Segundos .

= = Recording = =

Amar la Trama was recorded from November 1 ? 4 , 2009 , at Cata Studios in Madrid , in a television studio in front of a small audience who were selected in an online contest . He chose this format to avoid the " coldness " of the recording studio . Drexler was the lead vocalist and played guitar , and was joined by a band composed of additional guitarists , a rhythm section , a horn section , backup vocalists , and auxiliary musicians . All the tracks recorded were written by the singer , with the exception of " I Don 't Worry About a Thing " , a song by Mose Allison , which featured American pianist Ben Sidran . Leonor Watling performed vocals on the track " Toque de Queda " ; Josemi Carmona is featured playing Spanish guitar on the song " Los Transeúntes " . Drexler said , " In recent years I 've realized that I sing better if I have an audience in front of me ; I have learned to communicate better that way . " The audience consisted of about 20 fans per session . This kept the musicians tense and alert ; " the concentration was so great that it was perceived in the air , a silence so intense that you can hear it on the album . " All the songs were available on the singer 's official website prior to the album 's release . The recording sessions were presented in the documentary La Trama Circular , directed by Ariel Hassan and Juan Aragonés . Drexler recorded the album with the working title of Mundo Abisal (Nether World) , which refers to the deep sea and the inner world of people . He eventually settled on Amar la Trama (Loving the Plot) because he has a passion for the plot , " the space between the beginning and end , to be completed , in which things happen . " The album cover is an original work by Manuel Rodríguez Arnabal .

= = Music and lyrics = =

On the album , Drexler was lyrically inspired by Madrid , where most of the songs were written .

Drexler feels is a very optimistic album , since the title begins with the letter " a " , the same as in " affection " . The songs feature a completely different sound treatment , a departure from the " light electronica " of previous albums . Amar la Trama is the result of an artistic evolution originated with the recording of Cara B ; " with nine musicians playing and recording live on the album , I became interested in making music as in the past . " This new concept was explored with a trio of wind instruments and three percussionists , which brings great vitality and achieves bright and expansive sounds . The lyrics are very personal , and choose meaning over sonority . The first track , " Tres Mil Millones de Latidos " , is a song about existence that plays with the theme of identity , which is often present in Drexler 's lyrics . " Noctiluca " is a gift to his son , since " having a child is the best experience to lose the fear of feelings . " The inspiration for this song was a phosphorescent sea , lit by Noctiluca scintillans , that he observed at Cabo Polonio , Uruguay .

= = Reception = =

The album received mostly positive reviews . Jason Birchmeier of AllMusic said it was " nothing short of tremendous " and " excellent " . He praised Drexler 's writing abilities and his courage in recording an album in front of a live audience ; Birchmeier said that " Una Canción Me Trajo Hasta Aquí " , " Mundo Abisal " , and " La Trama y el Desenlace " were standouts worthy of special mention . Darío Vico of Rolling Stone gave the album a perfect score of five stars , naming the album a resounding success and a " big- bang curious emotional process . " Argentinian magazine , The Magazine , recognized Drexler as a " master " at designing memorable melodies , and maintaining a high literary level while writing lyrics . In her review for Billboard magazine , Judy Cantor @-@ Navas noted that the lyrics were " poetic " , and addressed familiar themes for the singer : fated encounters , global wanderings , the South American experience , and the universal wonder of everyday moments . She praised " Toque de Queda " , since " Drexler returns to his Southern roots musically and thematically . " Cantor commented that the first track , " Tres Mil Millones de Latidos " , seems " fuzzy " since the arrangement diverts attention from Drexler 's voice . Drexler received four nominations at the 11th Latin Grammy Awards , including Best Singer @-@ Songwriter Album for Amar la Trama , Best Long Form Video for La Trama Circular (shared with Ariel Hassan) , and Record of the Year and Song of the Year for the single " Una Canción Me Trajo Hasta Aquí " . The included DVD , La Trama Circular , was nominated for a Premio de la Música by the Sociedad General de Autores y Editores in Spain , for Best Musical Audiovisual Production .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Jorge Drexler (except where noted) .

= = Chart performance = =

The album debuted and peaked at number 5 on the Spanish Album Charts on March 21 , 2010 , the highest debut of the week . Amar la Trama spent an additional week in the top ten and 26 weeks in the top 100 .

= = Personnel = =

Jorge Drexler ? main performer , co @-@ producer , vocals , lyricist , guitar

Matías Cella ? producer , vocals

Carles Campi Campón ? co @-@ producer , autoharp , glockenspiel , omnichord , guitar , vocals

Roc Albero ? flugelhorn

Borja Barrueta ? lap steel guitar , drums , vocals

Josemi Carmona ? spanish guitar

Ben Sidran ? organ , vocals

Josema Martín ? marimba , vocals

Sebastián Merlín ? marimba , vocals

Leo Sidran ? marimba

Ángela Cervantes ? vocals

Leonor Watling ? vocals

Xavi Lozano ? vocals