

Iveth Luna

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SPEAKERS

Iveth Luna, Mike Stone



Mike Stone 00:00

Hey welcome back to Behind the Mike: Conversations of Hope. I am Mike Stone and she has over 7 million streams and her debut single in you reached number 28 on the Billboard Christian Airplay chart, was also included on air one radios top 10 Unforgettable songs her new song, just like Jesus debuted on her EP available now everywhere. We're going to talk to Iveth Luna right after this... Hey Iveth, how are you doing?



Iveth Luna 00:46

Hey, I'm doing great. How are you?



Mike Stone 00:49

I'm doing great. And it's so good to have you on. I have been streaming actually, I've been streaming your music over this long Memorial Day weekend when we're taping and it has been, it has been amazing. It's so inspiring. And so we're going to talk about your music, we're going to talk a little bit about you want to get to know you, you have a pretty good fan base, but you still would be considered kind of up and coming in the contemporary Christian music realm. So we want to we want to learn more about you talk about your music and where you're headed. I did look and see that you were recently married?



Iveth Luna 01:28

I am yes, two months ago,



Mike Stone 01:31

two months ago. Is married life what you thought it would be?

I Iveth Luna 01:37

Honestly, yes. I mean, I've had no expectations, but it's just blown any expectation that I've had?

M Mike Stone 01:44

Yeah, yeah. They always say the first first year is rough. My wife would tell you our first year was really rough. I think it's just getting to know each other like, but we've been married 35 years. And so I'm glad yours is off to a great start. It is a beautiful thing. And so congratulations on that. I saw a picture a couple pictures of your husband on Instagram. And you guys make a great couple. Yeah, yeah. So tell us about for those who don't know, it is Iveth Luna. And I've been I've been kind of calling you I-veth. Because that just spelled it out. But it is Iveth Luna. And we are very grateful to have you on today. Tell us a little bit about you.

I Iveth Luna 02:34

Yeah, well, first off, thanks for pronouncing my name right. For now, right? No, I'm totally used to that. But um, yeah, I grew up singing in church, I came from a very musical family. And I grew up in church. My grandfather was a pastor missionary, a church planter in Mexico. And he was so passionate about the gospel. And so I grew up around that we would go to church every Sunday, my uncles would lead worship. And that was just my normal life. So that's just a little bit about me. And yeah, been singing since I was a little girl.

M Mike Stone 03:15

And yeah, so like, I believe it was 2016. You kind of kind of went on a different path you started or not really different, but maybe branch off of what you had been doing. And you started to pursue this CCM venture. What brought you to music? And what's that journey been like for you?

I Iveth Luna 03:36

Yeah, well, I've been leading worship since I was 16. In Spanish, actually, I'm, I'm bilingual. And so having Spanish roots. And so that was super important to me. I started singing in Spanish. And then I got invited to start leading worship and English, and then I would do bilingual. And that was kind of always a part of my story. And it was also always really important for my grandma, for me to sing in Spanish. So yeah, when I graduated college in 2016, I actually didn't major in music. I majored in business, because my dad wanted me to have a just like, I mean, it's kind of a big dream, you know, and not everyone gets to do it, which is why I'm so grateful that I do get to do it. But when I was 20, and 2016, I graduated from college and I started to pursue this I started to take all the avenues I've done American Idol. I've done The Voice I've seen at different venues and events, and I was really pursuing this because God put a dream in my heart as a freshman in college.



Mike Stone 04:49

Very cool. Tell us a little bit about your, your Voice and Idol experiences. I know some I mean, I can think back to like Danny Gokey and so many who have Christian roots who started off of those? Was it disappointing that you didn't you weren't the last one to walk off the stage? Or was that just kind of a stepping stone for you on God's path?



Iveth Luna 05:17

Yeah, I really believe it was a stepping stone. But I think that it's so important to almost like experience rejection rejection is so important because you have to get back up. And so I've done American Idol. And I've almost made it through to a certain part of the show, and it didn't happen. So then American Idol kind of, there was an open door. And so I just kept getting yeses and yeses and yeses. And then I flew to meet the judges in person, and I got to sing in front of them. Katy Perry, Lionel Richie, Luke Bryan. And it was such a surreal experience. I walked in so confidently, and as soon as I walked in, I got dry mouth, and I was just like, Oh, my goodness. I was like, they're just people. They're just people, but they do not look like just people. They look like walking Barbies. Sure. And you know, it's just it's showbiz. It's so it's, it's not for it's not just for anyone, and you just have to it's very cutthroat. That's really what I'm trying to say. It's super cool, bro. I sang for them. And they loved my voice. But yet there I didn't get a yes. I got a yes from Lionel Richie. Katy Perry said I was too nervous in the beginning, which it is a nerve nerve wracking experience. And then Luke Bryan asked me to sing another song to get my to get to know my voice a little more. And, yeah, it didn't work out. And they were like, You're a great singer. We're just like, we're trying to figure out who you are. And in that season, I didn't know who I was, either. And so I had to experience disappointment. But God was building me up and showing me who I was. And I had to go through a really tough season. But I'm so grateful. I went through that because God spoke identity over me. And I was his daughter first. And, you know, and so, yeah, I'm really grateful for that experience.



Mike Stone 07:23

Yeah, I think it's really important what you said about learning to fail, because I think a lot of us coming into, especially like I was I received Christ at the age of 12. And I somehow felt like now being a Christian, my life was just going to be easy, it was going to be great, it was going to be a huge blessing. And it took me through my teen years to realize that this life probably is more difficult than not knowing Jesus, although I will have to add to that, that there is so much peace and purpose, when you're following Christ, no matter how hard or how easy it gets. And I think you're right on, I think if you experience the failures, it kind of strips away who we are. And we begin to find our identity in Christ, which allows us then to be aligned with where he wants us. And so listening to your EP, I'm nobody, but I think you're on the path God wants you to, you've got a beautiful voice I love I love two songs that we're going to talk about that that are singles, you can listen to those now on wherever you listen to music. But so kind of along the same lines, what motivates you in the world of contemporary Christian music? You kind of alluded to it. You kind of you kind of took those stepping stones, you know, doors open with American Idol

and the voice and kind of get your feet wet there and realize maybe that wasn't the perfect direction. So what what motivates you right now as you're walking into this contemporary Christian music scene?



Iveth Luna 09:05


Yeah. Um, well, I had to go through a really tough season. And I, when you experience rejection, it could really pull you in a dark direction. And so I was struggling with depression after that, because I felt like I had no purpose. I didn't know who I was. And it's when you fall and you fall really deep. It's really hard to get back up. So I was going through a really tough time. And a series of things happen. But I, my best friend ended up taking me to church and I just felt like the Lord really met me in church in a worship service, and through the sermon, and God was just building me back up and I was reading a book by one of my favorite authors, Jenny Allen. She's a speaker Pastor, and her book really resonated. With the season that I was in, and it's called, the book is called "Get Out of Your Head". And so I remember going through the season of just putting God first in every part of my life. And music used to be an idol for me, actually, it was everything for me. And this dream, and this gift was everything for me. But I had to lay it down because I was no longer fulfilled in it. And I remember my mom told me, and I think I read it in the Bible, too. But it was just like God, really just saying, you will only be fulfilled, and we. And so I started reading His word I was reading, also books from authors that were pastors and I love what I loved about her book is she had science and Scripture and her testimony tied into one. And it really resonated with my story. And I was just going to church and God was just building me back up and telling me who I was, he was speaking into my life. And I remember one day, I got up and I was just like, I need to write a song, I just need to put it out there. So I'm internal, or I love to journal journal, my thoughts, my prayers. And I was going to journal but I thought maybe I should put this into a song. Because I was just pouring my heart out in my journal, and I just pulled out my guitar, and I just started playing these chords. And I remember pausing and praying, and I was like, God, would you just help me write a song, I just want to write something for myself. And as I started writing it, it was therapeutic for me. But I realized it would bless someone else. And this song would, I don't think it'll ever come out. But it was my very first song that I wrote. And it was called, I need you. And the course goes, oh, I need you. Oh, I need you. And so I was just strumming and playing it. And I ended up finishing the song with some friends. But it was so therapeutic for me. And I knew that it would bless some people and I would share it with friends. And they would just cry. And I was, and it just made me realize, this is what I want to do. I want to write songs that meet people in their darkness or meet people in their season, whatever season it is not. I don't just read set songs or anything like that, but just a song that meets someone in their season and points them back to Jesus. Because Christian music has been that for me, I was the girl that listen to Christian radio, my mom would play it in the morning, taking me to school, picking me up from school, worship music, always playing in the in the house. And I had no idea what all of that would do to me. But really, my mom was constantly inviting God's presence in the car or in the house is that's truly what it was. And looking back as an adult, meet Christian music has shaped my life worship and CCM music, all all music that glorifies the Lord. It truly has shaped my life. So I don't know if I answered your question. kind of went on rant. Yeah,



Mike Stone 13:14

no, that's, that's really good stuff. And I and I can resonate with that whole growing up with Christian music. When I found Christian music in my teens, it just, it was constantly playing,

and it was constantly ministering to me. Of course, I love the music. But the lyrics were what really sunk in and a lot of it was scripture or scripture based. So I totally get what you're saying. And maybe that's why I love having CCM artists on the show because it really has such a strong route in my life. And it meant so much to me, and I hope that it does to those who are listening and watching today as well. To songs I want to talk about I believe were your first was your first one. And 2022 called in you reached number 28 on the Billboard Christian chart. Tell us about in you what I gotta say though. What fires me up about this song is we all need and you said you walked in to American Idol with confidence. And we in this in this world that we live with so much garbage being thrown at us and around us. We need to stand firm and God's word know what we believe and recognize that we can't face things in our own strength, but only in Him and that's what the song is about. I love it. So tell us about in you.

 Iveth Luna 14:42

Yeah, "In You" is based off Philippians 4:13, which is I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. And I think it's so important to be authoritative of the Word of God. Because God's word is powerful. It's all powerful, especially when we meditate on it. And we memorize Scripture. And so I think it's extremely powerful when you write songs based on God's word, because you're not just memorizing it, but you're singing it. And there's something so powerful about music, when you especially when you combined with God's word. And so this is a song, that kind of attacks fear, because, I mean, we're constantly being attacked by the enemy, with fear with, with addictions, with all all these things that were plagued with, by the world. And so I really struggled with fear, the fear of the unknown, the fear of failure. And that's, that's the first lyric on the first verse, I used to be scared and drained the fear of failure chasing me. And so this song really reminds us that it also reminds us of our identity, it's not just reminding us that we can have authority in Christ, not on our own, not by our own strength, but in Christ. But it also reminds us our identity, because we are children of God, we're special, we have we have access to the creator, the most powerful person on earth. And so we get to call upon his name. And because I think as Christians, sometimes we forget, and I'm guilty of this too, but we have authority. We have the same spirit that rose Jesus from the grave lives in us. And we have so much wisdom from the Bible. And we get to use that to our benefit. And so this song is about that. About God's strength in us accessing his strength and the confidence, because we've got the Lion walking beside us.

 Mike Stone 16:49

Amen, man. Yeah, so if you don't know the song, listen to it. I'm sure you've heard it. If you listen to Christian music, I'm sure you've heard it. It fires me up. It really does. Because, you know, we, because we do we get beat down every single day. And we need to be reminded, and that song does it for me. So the other song I want to talk about is your new single. And it's called just like Jesus. That should be the cry of all of our hearts. We just want to be like, Jesus, tell us about what just like Jesus means to you.

 Iveth Luna 17:25

Oh, my goodness, it means, you know what? So this story just popped up in my head. So yesterday, my husband and I were reading a devotional together. And we ended up reading 1 Thessalonians. And we ended up reading the whole book. it's iust five chapters. We don't do

this all the time. But like, we wanted to do one together. And just it was Memorial Day. And there was just so much wisdom. And he paused. And he said, and wouldn't we be such better Christians? If everyone read the Bible and actually followed what the Bible said? And what I'm trying to say by this is, wouldn't we be? In a perfect world, every believer would be imitators of Christ, like, you know what I'm saying? Now, I'm just going on a rant. Sorry about that.



Mike Stone 18:13

Yeah, go ahead and preach!



Iveth Luna 18:16

Well, I mean, it's Jesus led by compassion, and by love, and by serving, and that's what this song is about. It's about the character of Christ, we should all be serving each other, we should all lay down our pride, and we should be. And it's so easy to say this, it's harder to do it. But let us be transformed. Let us be transformed by a spirit to be the hands and feet of Jesus. And maybe people would see Christians in a different light if we actually were transformed by his love. And you get what I'm saying. And I remember, someone asked me, What is this song based on? And I really just want to say the whole Bible, it's the character of God, the character of God is shown in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, but I did a little bit of research and a little bit of digging, and I found a verse that I feel like, resonates with me. And it says, Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. And be imitators of God be just like Jesus, as he loved us. So that's kind of the heart of the song. It's the character of Jesus. And we should want to be just like Jesus.



Mike Stone 19:38

You know, I don't know how long ago was that everybody was wearing around the WWJD bracelets, you know, what would Jesus do? And, you know, I know it was kind of a fad, but it really should be our heart cry as when we face things instead of reacting in our human flesh. I think we it would behoove us to first of all, no scripture by reading scripture, and to get to know Christ even more, but then also to reflect the love that we read in Scripture, in our world, in your world, in my world, and those who are listening and really truly be the hands and feet of Christ, I think that over the years, we've gotten such a bad rap and, and rightfully so, because I think that we sometimes feel like, well, I am a child of God, so I am special. But Jesus was the most special of all, he didn't come here demanding and, and, and wanting his own way He came to serve, and to love and, and so if you've not listened to those songs, listen to them, and you'll know why I get so fired up listening to him, because those are amazing. They come off of your new EP, tell us about the EP.



Iveth Luna 20:55

Yeah, the EP has six songs. They are songs, some of them I wrote in 2020, during the pandemic, and so I was really inspired by that too. There's a song called "Believe" on there, there's a song called "Second Chances". There's a song called "Give it to Jesus" and I, they

were all parts of my life. So I love to write about things that I experienced and things that I still need to work on. Like, give it to Jesus, I need to give it back, give my burdens to the Lord. So I hope that you guys enjoy them and feel God's presence when you listen to them and just have a good time with them.



Mike Stone 21:35

Yeah, absolutely. I do. I love it. I don't know if I said it on here, or if it was before, but my wife and I just listened most of the day yesterday, just over and over to those six songs. And it's just so encouraging. And you know, this isn't a sales pitch. But I really think you need you have such a beautiful voice. Clearly, you're supposed to be doing what you're doing. And I think that if you will listen to this EP, you will be inspired as well. And that's what we all want to do is just be like Jesus, so well. Iveth, what? What would you like to? Where would you like to see your life in? Anywhere two to five years from now let's, let's say five years from now? Where would you like to see your life? And I know that you're, you're seeking like all of us, you're seeking God's will. And that could change drastically at any time. But as you kind of project where where your heart desire is, where would that be?



Iveth Luna 22:37

Yeah. Obviously, God's will like, I would be happy. If I'm in as well. I'm so fulfilled. But I would still love to be writing music, I would still love to be creating, still love to be singing and performing. And just seeing where God opens the doors and opens the doors for the songs and to just continue to see God's hand on this music. And yeah, I would continue to love to do that.



Mike Stone 23:05

Awesome. Awesome. Well, I would say when you are in the Northwest Ohio area performing, I plan on coming and bringing my family so we'll be waiting for that day. Yeah, we'll be waiting for that day. There are several venues around here. So you know, we'll be watching events, is there anything that you would like to say to encourage I know that you write from your heart and from your experiences so what, what would you like to say to our listeners and those viewers to help them right where they're at today?



Iveth Luna 23:43

Right? Um, I would say, don't give up on your dreams. God put a dream in your heart for a reason. And trust God and trust who he is. But always remember His will. Not our will. Thy will be done.



Mike Stone 24:08

Iveth Luna, thank you for joining us. We hope to have you back soon and we will be watching as it says, I read it on an article that you are up and coming and we're going to be watching this star rise I know that it's not for you but it's for the Lord and so we're gonna be watching you

and wish you the ve ry best.



Iveth Luna 24:28

Thank you so much.