If Juan Carmona had to write his life’s story, it might be called “La Belle Histoire”, after the Claude Lelouch film in which he performed the soundtrack in 1992.

The Carmona family had emigrated from North Africa to France after being exiled in the early 1960s. Juan, born in Lyon, was only ten years old when his father gave him his first guitar. His passion for the instrument grew and his virtuosity was quickly remarked by professional musicians.

Juan’s journey as a professional guitarist next took him back to the land of his ancestors, Spain, to go back to his roots and imbibe at the Source - Jerez de la Frontera in Andalusia. His talent and the originality of his art were quickly recognized in this city, known as the cradle of flamenco.

For 9 years, he absorbed as much as he could in the purest flamenco tradition, rubbing elbows with some of its biggest names, like Joaquin Grilo, Agujetas, Duquende, Antonio Canales, Chano Dominguez and many others. He recorded his first albums and won international awards including the prestigious guitar competition International de Jerez, finalist of the competition of the Union of Cordoba and winner of the great Paco de Lucia Awards.

The success Juan encountered in Spain was a triumph for this Gypsy of French origin. On his return to France, he collaborated with musicians of diverse origins: Sylvain Luc, Larry Coryell, Marcus Miller, Jan Garbarek, Trilok Gurtu, Subramanian, Baden Powell, each project adding a new color to his sound palette.

Creative and curious, his thirst for learning is unquenchable and makes him what he is today: the creator of one of the most beautiful sounds on the international scene. His music is written with his memory, his ears, his heart and his passion.

A self-taught musician, he can boast of having composed his Sinfonia Flamenca and Orillas, today performed by many orchestras in the world, including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (Australia), the St Louis Symphony Orchestra (USA), the Russian Philharmony (Russia), the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (Hong Kong) and the National Orchestra of Lyon (France).

His feet in the land of his ancestors and his head into modernity, Juan Carmona is timeless, elusive, undeniably flamenco.

On tour with his musicians around the world (United States, China, Canada, etc), his albums Alchemya, Orillas, Sinfonia Flamenca and El Sentido del Aire were nominated at the Latin GRAMMY Awards, category « Best Flamenco Album of the year » Winner of the Grand Prize Charles Cros 2015, UNESCO also awarded him the Grand Prize Zyrab of Virtuosos. His new opus Perla de Oriente (September 2016), recorded during his last tour in Asia, testifies to the magic of his concerts.

Praised by the leading figures of flamenco, Juan Carmona continues to soar on the wings of duende, taking it to new heights. He is an innovator, one of the most valiant links between modern music and the oldest, liveliest traditions of Andalusia.
Juan Carmona, Zyriab of modern times

Recognized as one of the greatest figures of flamenco, guitarist Juan Carmona collects international awards (Grand Prix Charles Cros, several nominations for the Latin GRAMMY Awards, Grand Prix Paco de Lucia...) and tours around the world. This 12th opus is a gold nugget. A concept album with an exceptional cast that retraces the journey of the musician-poet Zyriab, stopping off along the Mediterranean, from oasis to caravanserai, covering 6,743 km from Baghdad to Cordoba. Each stop is a musical invitation with an emblematic artist of his country.

Although rooted in tradition, the two artists share a modern vision of music and philosophy of travel.

They are trueferrymen, building bridges between the music of the Mediterranean, creating a new musical odyssey.

The artist pays tribute to this musician of genius, inventor of Arab-Andalusian music, in a nod to the «Grand Prix Zyriab des Virtuoses» awarded to him by UNESCO a few years earlier, a coincidence of fate...

The guitarist delivers his new version of Zyriab : 6.7.

Free and borderless

NEW ALBUM
RELEASE : 12TH NOVEMBER 2021

GUESTS

Ibrahim Maalouf | Trumpet
Wissam Joubran | Palestinian Oud
Naseer Shamma | Iraqi Oud
Duquende, El Pele, Piculabe, Youba Adjrad, Kawthar Meziti | Vocal
Dorantes | Piano
Ptit Moh | Mandole
Rachid Zeroual, Domingo Patricio | Flute
Bijan Chemirani | Iranian percussion
Istanbul Strings | String Orchestra

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« What a pleasure to be part of this album which mixes all the music I love, with a rare sincerity and authenticity. When we listen to your music Juan, we feel that it is the heart that speaks with virtuosity. »

« The Gypsy Juan Carmona takes us on a journey from Baghdad to Cordoba, following in the footsteps of the great artist Zyriab. Juan Carmona thus creates an alchemy, inspired by this initiatory journey to the heart of music and history... He speaks to us of a time that is no longer, but whose soul continues to vibrate as soon as he touches the strings of his guitar. It seems as if we hear the echo of a five-stringed oud. It is Zyriab who smiles. »

« In 2015, Morocco had the pleasure of welcoming the flamenco guitarist Juan Carmona and awarding him the “Ziryab des Virtuoses trophy”. This word Ziryab is a recurring theme in Juan Carmona’s career, and he in turn wants to pay tribute to him by dedicating an entire album... For his musical odyssey is a testament to his genius in playing and composing and the career of this master of flamenco with golden fingers, Juan Carmona. »