

# JUAN CARMONA





His name is **Carmona**, like his distant cousins of the Habichuelas dynasty of Granada, all guitarists. In 1963, one year after the exile, he was born in Lyons, France.

**Juan Carmona** was barely 10 when his father gave him his first guitar. His virtuosity became quickly apparent to professional musicians and it was only a matter of time before he began winning international prizes.

**Juan Carmona** soon felt the urge to return to the land of his ancestors, to go back to his roots and to get inspired from family source – Jerez de la Frontera in Andalusia – with the personal challenge of obtaining recognition of the originality of his art in the town considered as the cradle of flamenco. And he won his bet: for more than eight years he rubbed elbows with the greatest names in flamenco: singers **Agujetas, Duquende, Terremoto Hijo, Capuyo de Jerez, Rubichi, Antonio y Manuel Malenas, Jesus Monje** (Cameron de la Isla's brother), **Jose Mendez...** ; dancers **Joaquin Grilo, María del Mar Moreno, Ana Parilla, Angelita y Joselito Vargas, Joselito Fernández**. He also recorded with **Chano Dominguez, Rubem Dantas, Manolito Soler, Tino di Geraldo**, etc.

Soon, Carmona emerged as a prominent figure in flamenco. In 1988, he awarded first prize in the **Jerez de la Frontera International Competition**, and was one of the finalists in the **Union and Córdoba Guitar Competition**. In 1989, he obtained a diploma from the **Jerez Flamenco Foundation**, awarded by the guitarist Manolo Sanlúcar. In 1990, he won the **Villa Médicis Hors Les Murs Award**, the **Don Antonio Chacon Trophy**, awarded for his "peña flamenca", and in 1992 the **Lavoisier Award**. In 1994, he finally achieved the ultimate laureate: **First prize** in the Madrid **Paco de Lucía Competition**.

Besides his many concert achievements, awards and relationships in the guitar world, this French-born gipsy added an hard further distinction to his career: reaching a permanent triumph in Spain, particularly in Andalusia where he created upheaval in the flamenco world. His stay in Spain

gave birth to his recording "**Borboreo**", tribute to the city of Jerez, under the artistic direction of **Isidro Muñoz**.

Since his return to France in 1996, Juan Carmona has experienced an endless series of concert engagements and has done numerous recordings. After working with a fabulous stream of musicians representing a wide range of musical genres such as **Mino Cinelu, Al Di Meola, Biréli Lagrène, Larry Coryell, Babik Rheinhardt, Philip Catherin, Sylvain Luc**, to name just a few in the area of jazz; **Subramanian** in Indian music ; singer **Matlubeth** (Uzbekistan) ; and participating to numerous film soundtracks, (**La belle Histoire, Cuisines et Dépendances, Sables Mouvants**).

A programme was dedicated to him on channel Arte in October 1998, presented by the big master **Lord Yehudi Menuhin** for whom **Juan Carmona** is an exceptional guitarist.

Juan Carmona set up his own group: the **Juan Carmona Grupo**, staging shows throughout France and abroad, forging himself an international musical career: USA, Germany, Italy, England, Morocco, Russia, Holland, Hungary... in addition to performances in major music festivals such as the Montreal Jazz Festival (07) and the Festival Jazz à Vienne (07) or the Montreal Jazz Festival.

His creation "**Sinfonía Flamenca**" (creation for flamenco guitar and classical orchestra) is now performed all around the world: the Russian Philharmony, the St-Louis Symphonic Orchestra (United States), The Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Lyon National Orchestra...

Elected by the highest flamenco's figures, Juan Carmona roams across aerial ways of the duende. His guitar provides continuity between musical "modernity" and one of the oldest living flamenca's traditions of Andalusia. On tour around the world (The United States, China, Canada...) his last three albums, **Orillas, Sinfonía Flamenca** and **El Sentido del Aire** were nominated to the Latin Grammy Awards category "Best Album Flamenco of the year" in 2003, 2006 and 2010.

His latest album "**Alchemya**" (2013) is a real musical self-portrait.

**Juan Carmona** has undeniably proven being one of the most creative guitarists. His playing is surprising and always moving. Somewhere between profound awareness of musical genres, traditional styles and a devastating modernity, Juan Carmona stands as an innovator of his generation.



**New Album  
Available**

**World Village  
Harmonia mundi**

*Line up*

# JUAN CARMONA QUARTET

JUAN CARMONA, *solo guitar*

DIDIER DEL AGUILA, *bas guitar*

PACO CARMONA, *guitar*

EL BANDOLERO, *cajon*



*In concert*



## Théâtres

Olympia de Paris (France)  
De Doelen (Pays-Bas)  
Opéra Yerevan (Arménie)  
Palace of Arts (Hongrie)  
New York Symphony Space (États-Unis)  
Théâtre Alhambra (Suisse)  
Opéra de Marseille (France)  
Moscou Auditorium MMDM (Russie)  
Piccolo Teatro Grassi (Italie)  
Théâtre de Varsovie (Pologne)  
Queen Elisabeth Hall (Angleterre)  
Hong Kong Culturel Center (Chine)  
St Louis Powel Symphony Hall (Etats-Unis)

Festival de Musiques sacrée de Fez (Maroc)  
Festival de guitares de Patrimoine (Corse)  
Gipfel du Jazz de Fribourg (Allemagne)  
Festival de guitares de Tunis (Tunisie)  
Festival Flamenco de Nîmes (France)  
Globalfest Festival (Etats-Unis)  
Flamenco Festival (Etats-Unis)  
Vidor Festival (Hongrie)  
Festival Jazz à Vienne (France)  
Montreal Jazz Festival (Canada)  
Vestfold Internation Festival (Norvège)

## Festivals



*New album*



## JUAN CARMONA

*Alchemya*

Seldom has an album lived up so well to its name. With each track, crafted from a combination of precious elements and featuring a whole host of guest stars, Juan Carmona puts the flamenco music so dear to his heart into the arena with jazz, that musical heavyweight, and world music. At times very outward-looking, at times introspective, with this album, he brings his art to a new level and paints a bold self-portrait underpinned by rich variety, freedom, the pleasure of new discovery and exceptionally high standards. The guitarist truly is an alchemist who has found the philosopher's stone by focusing on the music alone.

### JUAN CARMONA, THE ALCHEMIST, AND HIS CLEVER BLEND OF FLAMENCO AND WORLD RHYTHMS

If this work were a painting, it could be considered both a fresco and a self-portrait. It represents as much a step towards others as a look in the mirror: and in this duality is the secret behind the alchemy to which the title of the album, Juan Carmona's tenth, refers. Bringing together private and shared concerns, open-mindedness and introspection, the flamenco guitarist has found a way to balance opposing forces and demonstrates an unparalleled sense for composition. Once again, he provides an inventive and coherent answer to the preposterous challenges of his imagination.

It must be said that Juan Carmona's playful, run-away imagination never lets him rest and arouses in him the wildest possible desires. *Alchemya* confronted him with a thorny - but infinitely exciting - problem: how could he combine the love for flamenco running through his veins, his long-established attraction to the harmonic richness and the freedom of jazz, his admiration for the erudite loquacity of Latino music and his fascination with the intensity of African rhythms? To provide this sum of unknown factors with an answer, Juan Carmona followed his heart in the only way which matters to him: he chose to focus on the music itself.

Juan Carmona weaves this principle into all of his work, making his dreams of fresh horizons come true by meeting new people and sharing his music with them. On *Alchemya*, over thirty-five musicians and singers agreed to work with him, providing a range of human and musical sounds as subtly nuanced and comprehensive as possible: perfect for interpreting his vision of what this album should be. And this all took place under the experienced eye and ear of Paquete, who also worked as the artistic co-director of the album *El Sentido del Aire* in 2010.

Nobody sets off to sail the seven seas without having dived deep into tradition first... Such is the philosophy which is common to all ten tracks of *Alchemya* and characterises those who worked on it. At the heart of all these musical explorations, it is clear Juan Carmona is enjoying himself, and also that he is very demanding: far from piling music of different genres, styles and generations artificially on top of each other, the guitarist, master of both his phrasing and his vision, carefully brings to light all the hidden links between them, making us realise his desire to remain authentic and daring still burns brightly...

The marvels of *Alchemya* thus flow on from each other naturally, mixing different kinds of inspiration and taking them to a whole new level. New forms of expression come one after the other, but the performers never fall into the trap of showing off: instead, their work carries a hint of the glee a child would feel at playing the same game over and over again, as well as a dose of the slightly crazed, slightly nonsensical science of alchemists, whose boldest attempts to combine different materials turn them, as if by miracle, into something precious.

*Artistic meetings*



*Flamenco Voices:*

Agujetas, Duquende, Guadiana, La Macanita, Jose Mendez, Capullo, Garbanzo de Jerez, Antonio y Manuel Malena, Jesus Monge (Pijote de la Isla), Diego Rubichi, Terremoto, El Potito, Montse Cortes, Esperanza Fernandez, Pepe Luis Carmona, Diego Carrasco

*Flamenco Dance:*

Antonio Canales, Joaquin Grilo, Juan de Juan, Joselito Fernandez, Domingo Ortega, Angelita Vargas, Manuela Carasco, Ana Parilla

*Piano:*

Chano Dominguez, Daniel Kramer, Diego Amador

*Guitar:*

Larry Coryel, Al Di Meola, Sylvain Luc, Philip Catherine, Bireli Lagrene, Baden Powell, Christian Escoudé, Raphaël Fays, Gérard Marais, Babik Reinhardt

*Violin:*

Subramaniam

*Drums:*

Mino Cinelu, Trilok Gurtu, Minino Garay

*Double Bass:*

Renaud Garcia-Fons, Carles Benavent, Marcus Miller

*Saxophone/Flute:*

Jorge Pardo, Jan Garbarek

*Pandoneon:*

Juan José Mossalini

*Singing:*

Françoise Atlan, Matlubeth

*Orchestra:*

Russian Philharmony, Orchestre National de Lyon, St.-Louis Symphonic Orchestra, Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de l'Opéra de Marseille, Orchestre de Basse-Normandie, l'Orchestre philharmonique de Brandenburg, l'Orchestre de Rabat, Danubian Symphony...

*References*

---

## AWARDS

---

- 2010 Nominates to the **Latin Grammy Awards 2010**  
“Best Flamenco album” for ***El sentido del aire***.
- 2006 Nominated to the **Latin Grammy Awards 2006**,  
“Best Flamenco album” for **Sinfonia Flamenca**
- 2005 **Babel Med Music Award**, “World music Artist of the year”
- 2003 Nominated to the **Latin Grammy Awards 2003**  
“Best Flamenco album” for ***Orillas***.
- 1994 **Paco de Lucía** First prize, Madrid.
- 1993 Trophy awarded by the **Flamenco Pena Don Antonio Chacon**, Jerez.
- 1992 **Lavoisier Prize** awarded by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Paris.
- 1991 **First Prize** of the **Cannes guitar Festival**.
- 1990 **Villa Médicis « Hors les Murs » prize** awarded by the Foreign Affairs Ministry,  
Paris
- 1989 **Finalist** of the **Union and Cordoba Flamenca Guitar International Competition**
- 1988 **First Prize – Jerez de la Frontera International Competition**.

---

## DIPLOMAS

---

- 2001 Traditional Music Certificate, *Paris*
- 1989 State certificate of flamenca guitar teacher, *Lyon*  
Flamenco Centro Andaluz Certificate by **Manolo SANLUCAR**, Jerez
- 1983 Concert Degree awarded by **Gil GRAVEN**,  
Director of the CNSM – The Upper National Music Academy of Paris.

*Discography*

## RECORDS

### **Alchemya**

(Harmonia Mundi / World Village) **2013**



### **El Sentido del Aire**

(Le Chant du Monde / harmonia mundi) **2010**

Nominee “Best Flamenco album”

– Latin Grammy Awards. 2010.

### **Sinfonia Flamenca**

(Le Chant du Monde / harmonia mundi) **2006**

Nominee “Best Flamenco album”

– Latin Grammy Awards. 2006.



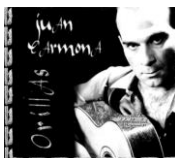
### **Orillas**

(Le Chant du Monde / harmonia mundi) **2002**

Nominee “Best Flamenco album”

– Latin Grammy Awards. 2003.

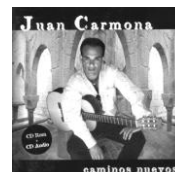
\*\*\*\* Le Monde de la Musique



### **Caminos Nuevos**

(Le Chant du Monde / harmonia mundi) **2000**

Shock- Le Monde de la Musique



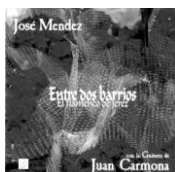
### **Cosa de Dos**

**Giraldillo – Juan Carmona**

(L'Empreinte digitale / Nocturne) **1999**

### **Antes**

(L'Empreinte digitale / Nocturne) **1998**



### **Entre Dos Barrios**

**José Mendez – Juan Carmona**

(L'Empreinte digitale / Nocturne) **1997**

\*\*\*\* Jazz Man

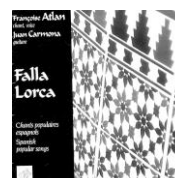
Album of the year - Le Monde de la Musique

### **Falla Lorca**

**Françoise Atlan – Juan Carmona**

(L'Empreinte digitale / Nocturne) **1997**

Album of the year - Le Monde de la Musique



### **Borboreo**

(Le Chant du Monde / harmonia mundi) **1996**

Shock - Le Monde de la Musique

Best album of the 1997 CDs guidebook



*Other works*

## MUSIC COMPILATIONS



### **Outro Flamenco**

(H. squared 2 music / Halidon srl-Milano) 2004



### **Nuits du Sud**

(Wagram) 2000



### **Marcel Dadi Hommage**

(Compilation dédicé communication,  
collection guitariste / Virgin) 1997



### **Flamenco de Los**

(Cd Pool Music / Palo Music) 2003



### **Empreintes méditerranéennes**

(L'empreinte digitale / harmonia mundi) 1998



### **Premier Certamen de Guitarra Espanola of**

**Paco de Lucia**

(Womad songs / Long distance) 1995

## CONTRIBUTION TO SOUNDTRACKS



### **Hors Jeu de Karim Dridi 1999**

With Roé



### **Cuisine et dépendances de Philippe Muihl 1993**

With Vladimir Cosma



### **Les Sables mouvants de Paul Carpita 1995**

With Vladimir Cosma



### **La belle histoire de Claude Lelouch 1991**

With Francis Lai

*Contact*

---

**Cendryne Roé | Manager**  
[cendyroe@nomadeskultur.com](mailto:cendyroe@nomadeskultur.com)

**Aimée Michaud-Morin**  
[booking@nomadeskultur.com](mailto:booking@nomadeskultur.com)

## **Nomades Kultur**

La Ferme de Napollon  
280, avenue des Templiers  
13676, Aubagne Cedex

**Tel : +33 (0)442 02 72 75**  
**Fax : +33(0) 442 03 72 82**

[www.juancarmona.com](http://www.juancarmona.com)  
[www.nomadeskultur.com](http://www.nomadeskultur.com)

**CD available upon request**