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## RENAUD GARCÍA-FONS

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Five-String Bass: Renaud Garcia-Fons

Flamenco Guitar: Antonio Ruiz "Kiko"

Accordion: David Venitucci

Percussion: Pascal Rollando

Guitar
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SAN LORENZO DE EL ESCORIAL  
REAL COLISEO DE CARLOS III  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 20

### FLAMENCO ON THE BORDER

This is the last of the shows that make up FLAMENCO ON THE BORDER. A soloist, bass player, winner of the 2010 Giraldillo de Oro for Best Musical Performance at Seville's flamenco Biennial.

Our art is a great embryo where many world musicians take their references, develop and grow in stature. This is the proof. The French musician *Renaud García-Fons* is an extraordinary creator and interpreter who has demonstrated his knowledge on his journey with flamenco.

### LA LÍNEA DEL SUR

As is happening with ever increasing frequency, flamenco corrupts the most varied musical styles and the most brilliant composers. That is the case with Renaud García-Fons, considered a genius, a virtuoso of the five string double bass, who, with one of his latest works, *La línea del Sur*, gets close to his roots and fuses Spanish and French music. The sounds of flamenco are interwoven with oriental airs and traces of folk roots from various cultures to submerge us in a world of sounds of a very rich expression and dazzling impact. Technique and beauty are two inseparable factors in this production by the French genius.

*La línea del Sur* is a virtual journey which shows us the music of the South, featuring flamenco often accompanied by the melancholy of tango. For this, the fundamental elements, apart from Renaud's double bass, are David Venitucci's acordeon and the flamenco guitar of Antonio Ruíz "Kiko", which do a perfect job, combining the high sound of the accordion and the deep sound of the bass. The percussion, which isn't excessive but simple and tasteful, completes this quartet which transports us to the particular compositive world of Renaud García-Fons, a world in which improvisation is the connecting thread.

Nurtured by influences from the Mediterranean and South America, each composition finds its singularity within the same musical colour, *the yellow colour of the sun, at times brilliant and at other times veiled by melancholy. La línea del Sur is a powerfully evocative disc which leaves room for images of a world in perpetual motion.*

Renaud García-Fons, possibly the most amazing bassist in the world, is known for his master performances and his Mediterranean melodic sense, as well as for playing bass with a bow as if it were a viola. His bass sounds like a bass, but it also sounds like a cello, or even a violin, and

sometimes it even sounds like a guitar. By exploring a new world of sounds and tones with his bass: jazz, tango, classical music, flamenco... Renaud García-Fons has done more than anyone else to date to free this instrument from a musical context in which the bass is mostly considered an instrument

for accompaniment. His teacher, the legendary Syrian bassist François Rabbath, had a lot to do with this. It was Rabbath who opened García-Fons' eyes to the bass' potential.

García-Fons was born near Paris in 1962 to a family of artists. As his family was from Catalonia, it is easy to understand García-Fons' interest in Spanish and Eastern culture. In the early 1980's, he enrolled at the Conservatoire de la Ville de Paris, where he studied with Jean-Pierre Logerrot. Starting in 1987 and until 1993, he was the only French bassist in L'Orchestre de Contrebasses, and this opened the doors to jazz improvisation for him. This is how he met some of the greatest European and American jazz musicians: Daniel Humair, Louis Sclavis, Michael Riessler, Michel Portal, Marc Ducret, Nguyễn Lê, Gian-Luigi Trovesi, Mino Cinelu, Michel Godard, Rabih Abou Khabil, Steve Swallow, Howard Levy, Gérard Marais...

García-Fons' many sources of musical inspiration have close ties to flamenco tradition, which he studies and manages to convey on the bass. Yet, he is also influenced by Mediterranean and Eastern music, which he has also fervently explored. This has led to different encounters with other musicians such as Pedro Soler, Vicente Pradal, Carmen Linares, Gerardo Núñez and Jazz Spania. García-Fons has also shared musical experiences with artists from other cultures, such as Angélique Ionatos (Greece), Cheb Mami (Algeria), Dhafer Youssef (Tunisia), Huong Tanh (Vietnam), Kudsi Erguner (Turkey)...

In addition to playing on many stages throughout the world as a soloist, Renaud is dedicated to composing and creating his own music.

He has already recorded 7 albums with German label Enja Records: *Légendes*, *Alboréa*, *Oriental Bass*, *Fuera* with accordion player Jean-Louis Matinier, *Navigatore*, composed and orchestrated for more than 20 musicians, *Entremundo* and the CD/DVD *Arcoluz* which the trio recorded live at Elmau Castle in Germany. Later albums include *Alborea* (2008), *La línea del Sur* (2009) and *Mediterranées* (2010).

From Beyrouth to New York, we often find him on stage heading different ensembles: Oriental Bass Band, Navigatore (quintet/octet), and during the last few years as a soloist *Pilgrim*, and especially in the trio *Entremundo* with Antonio Ruiz on flamenco guitar and Negrito Trasante on percussion. On October 15th 2004, Scène Nationale de Sceaux *World Music Chamber* commissioned him to create an unusual ensemble made up of a quartet of strings that combines traditional chamber music instruments with other instruments used in world music from different cultures.

Renaud has performed at the Sully sur Loire Festival, the Spoleto Festival, and the Capbreton International Bass Festival.

In his new album, *Mediterranées* (2010), he explores a great many cultures and sounds around the Mediterranean; from Andalucía to Israel, up to and including Egypt, Greece, and Morocco. For this project, he has surrounded himself with a huge group of musicians that varies depending on the country and the music to be played.

Considered the Pagnini of bass, Renaud García-Fons manages to sound like the world's most incredible multi-instrumentalist while playing just a one instrument: the five-string bass.