

# EDUARDO NIEBLA DETAILED BIOGRAPHY / 1

Born in Tangiers Morocco in 1955 to Andalusian parents, Eduardo is one of 11 children.

In 1960 political unrest forced the family to move and they settled in Girona, Catalunya Spain. It was a hard upbringing but having taught himself to play the guitar it became Eduardo's refuge, and he started accompanying his sister Pilar reading poetry on the radio and creating teenage bands. At 18 he formed the cult symphonic rock band "Atila" and turned professional, moving to Paris in 1975 where he collaborated with conceptual artist Jaume Xifra on projects including: ÉTATS ALLOTROPIQUES "Concert pour un petit ballon" at Galerie du Centre Culturel Municipal de Villeparisis. During the 70s Eduardo was rated alongside Paco de Lucia as one of the top guitarists in the Hispanic Peninsula and Atila's albums are now collectors' items.

***"Atila was the best act in the Canet Festival."*** - POPULAR 1 -

***"The most brilliant moments arrived with the drum and guitar solos... the guitarist was mobbed and carried shoulder high."*** - DISCO EXPRESS -

In 1978 Eduardo moved to London to follow a solo career, starting out as a member of Mother Gong, with whom he recorded the album "Fairy Tale". During the 80s he met legendary producer Tom Newman, who lent him his first recording equipment, and saxophonist Lol Coxhill, with whom performed at Ronnie Scotts. With Lol and a host of other top classical, jazz and pop musicians, he formed his new band, recording his 5th album "Towards the Sun"

***"Eduardo Niebla is the new Paganini"*** - DENIS MILNER LPO -

This was a very exploratory period for Eduardo, composing orchestral works and music for film, as well as collaborating with poets and writers Fran Landesman & Mike Horivitz. He also became close friends with the psychiatrist RD Laing. It was in this period too that he met guitarist Antonio Forcione and their duo was repeatedly named as the best guitar duo on the European circuit:

***"Stunning flamenco jazz guitar pyrotechnics." "The undisputed highlight of this year's Glastonbury Festival. Quite simply brilliant."*** - THE SOUND -

***"A great triumph in this week's jazz festival."*** - DIARIO DE ALMERIA -

***"Impressive"*** - DIARIO DE GRANADA -

They supported Barclay James Harvest on their 1990 European stadiums tour and released 5 albums from 1984-1992 on Venture Virgin and Jazz-Point Records: "Light & Shade", "Eurotour", "Celebration", "Music Without Frontiers" & "Poema". In 1996 Eduardo released "I Can Fly Now" on his own label.

***"Niebla wove a stunning kaleidoscopic array of sonic textures, part classical, part flamenco, tinged with jazz and Latin hues; passionate and gorgeously ornamented, built around melodies of exquisite melancholy."***

***"No recording can do full justice to the thunderstorm of this musician in full flow – deep booming chords interspersed with lightning percussive effects... his language is full of hot, dark, Mediterranean passion."***

- SCOTSMAN -

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Other guitarists who have since accompanied Eduardo on his journey include: Victor Unukovsky, Giorgio Serci, Hugo Elizalde, Ricardo Garcia, Carl Herring, Matthew Robinson and Daniel Martinez Lopez. The 90s saw Eduardo explore his passion for Indian music, forming The Eduardo Niebla Trio with master tabla player Sukhvinder Singh and Indian sarod maestro Wajahat Khan, with whom he toured Spain and recorded "Magic Nights". Other UK and international tours took place with tabla players Partha Sarathi Mukherjee and Sanjay Jhalla:

***"His music transports you to a higher level...sensitive, intricate and fantastically rhythmical. His fingers penetrate all the secrets of the guitar... He is an artist with new ways of understanding and making music."*** - DIARI DE BALEARS -

He also recorded a set of beautiful songs with the spiritual Indian gypsy singer and percussionist Paban Das Baul, as well as touring internationally with Palestinian oud player Adel Salameh and recording "Mediterraneo" for Riverboat Records:

***"Astonishing interplay between the principals who wed technical fluidity and virtuosity to an unashamedly secular passion."*** - Q REVIEW -

In 1999 Deepak Ram (bamboo flute) invited Eduardo to record on his album "Searching for Satyam" as well as touring South Africa. The album subsequently won Best Instrumental Album at the 2000 South African music awards. At the end of the year Eduardo released his album "The Gift":

***"A stunning collection of originals... which work wonderfully well, showing what Jelly Roll Morton called 'the Spanish tinge' is still a potent force."*** - JAZZ UK -

Concert appearances included The Tbilisi International Jazz Festival, The Olympic Games Greece, tours to the Baltic States and Europe, which continued in the millennium with Deepak Ram (flute) in Beirut, sarangi legend Pandit Ramish Misra and vocalist Sanchita Pal in the UK, and concerts with Adel Salameh (oud) at the Mediterranean Arts Festival London and with Nishat Khan in Mumbai:

***"He gives pleasure that only a world class virtuoso at his best is capable of... his performance reached everyone in the packed hall...extremely impressive."*** - SAKALA NEWS, ESTONIA -

Eduardo's collaborations continued with Purbayan Chatterjee (sitar), Kala Ramnath (Indian violin), Satyajit Talwalker (tabla), Carles Benavent (bass) and his brother Salvador Niebla (drums) on his albums "Natural" (2003) & "Lights from the Inner Side" (2004):

***"A fluent, fluid and captivating acoustic guitarist... technically superb whose spectacular skill remains at the service of expression, lyricism and a profound musicality... this is absorbing, uplifting and sophisticated instrumental music."*** - SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY -

***"A formidable guitarist and a beautifully sequenced disc by a musically fluent master of today's generation... hugely enjoyable... experimental... with many stunning moments. Unbelievably invigorating."*** - SONGLINES -

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In 2004 Eduardo began to work with Ben Watkins of Juno Reactor, with their work licensed to Japanese films, and since then Eduardo has appeared with Juno Reactor at Boom psychedelic festival Portugal. He was also invited by the British Council to be part of three acclaimed projects in Jordan, Jaipur and Abu Dhabi (2006-2008), collaborating with the Nawazen Ensemble, Rajasthani gypsy musicians at the Jaipur Festival, and at the Cultural Heritage Centre Abu Dhabi.

For these projects Eduardo was accompanied by Sanju Sahai (tabla), Carl Herring (guitar) & Lebanese darbouka player Rony Barrak. Later in 2008 Purbayan Chatterjee (sitar) invited Eduardo to appear with him and top Indian string players a gala concert in Kolkata celebrating Indian Independence.

Closer to home Eduardo composed music for the Yorkshire Planetarium, with poetry by Ian McMillan, who also worked with Eduardo on his community project "Open Your Doors" which involved over 100 young people at the 2007 Ripon International Festival. Music included church organ, choirs, strings, brass, rock bands and natural sound-scapes.

2010-2011 saw Eduardo appear at the Kaunas Jazz Festival Lithuania and the Rigas Ritmi Festival Latvia:

***"Their music was a unique heady blend including flamenco, Latin, classical, Indian, Arabic and jazz ingredients. It was a lush guitar choir with a high-revving Indian tabla motor in the middle. Niebla is a heart-on-sleeve romantic, and there was a yearning poignance to his songs like "Mirror of Life," "Rosie" (for his daughter) and "Para Margarita" (for his mother) ... Parmar, with his clattering rain of propulsion, made sure that Niebla's sentiments swung."*** - JAZZ TIMES -

He also released his album "My Gypsy Waltz" featuring Salvador Niebla (drums), Jyotsna Srikanth (violin), Dharmesh Parmar (tabla), Ken Marley (bass), which he launched at the Queen Elizabeth Hall London and Celtic Connections Glasgow:

***"His latest album demonstrates his fluid, technically brilliant guitar work... and the standout track is the 18 minute India, a series of meditations on poverty and resilience, in which lyrical, drifting guitar passages are matched against rousing interplay with Srikanth's violin... the exuberant title track...(and) the thoughtful and lyrical Rosie is another reminder of Niebla's exquisite guitar work."*** - Robin Denselow, THE GUARDIAN -

***"In this dense mix of rhythm and culture, he has produced a hypnotic album. Exotic and percussive, Eduardo explores musical avenues that are rarely pursued. For sheer breathtaking artistry it takes some beating."*** - Ben Jackson, THE SUN -

***"It's his debt to rich family community that makes his music resonate deeply... Niebla's own lived internationalism ensures this is a passionate musical journey involving gems and tantalising experiments. Stunning pieces like 'Phoenix' exquisitely capture his heartfelt respect for life in all its bittersweet complexity."*** - Jan Fairley, THE LIST -

***Eduardo – virtuoso? Inventive improviser? Yes and yes. And creative composer too. Writer of beautiful melodies, great grooves... he cast a deep, engrossing spell over the audience which transported them to other places, to the distant past, to India, Arabia, North Africa, Spain – tracing the link between modern Flamenco and the ancient music of India. And then on to the New World, to South and Central America for the rumba. At the end of the concert he thanked the audience for having been present while the band "searched for these deep places in the music." Believe me, they found them."*** - LONDON JAZZ -

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In 2011 Eduardo was commissioned to write music inspired by North Yorkshire (UK), his adopted home, and the result was a collection of pieces entitled "My Yorkshire Road" for brass bands, fishermen's choirs and folk musicians. Ian McMillan wrote the lyrics and it was premiered at the Ryedale Festival. Commissions continued with the invitation by the Dante String Quartet to perform in Cornwall and together they performed Eduardo's works for guitar and string quartet. Later Eduardo presented these with the Pavao Quartet at the Queen Elizabeth Hall London.

Eduardo's tours continued with an appearance at the Cairo Jazz Festival and extensive tours throughout the UK and Ireland:

***"A display of supernatural talent...and a spellbinding mixture of flamenco and modern jazz, bursting with obvious passion and verve."*** - THE SPECTATOR -

***"In such an intensely pitched performance, the accumulative effect was hypnotic and exhilarating... Niebla threw himself into the performance with a passion that was intoxicating. As a self-taught player, it was clear that he played with his heart more than his head, and this provided the opportunity for an utterly enthralling juxtaposition with his accompanist, English classical guitarist Matthew Robinson. Where one is wild and tempestuous, the other is studied and restrained. The interplay between the two, with Robinson often playing a grounding bass counterpart to Niebla's frenetic higher passages, created a tension and a rhythmical ebb and flow that was far greater than the sum of its parts. Both performers were clearly masterful in their own styles of playing, but together, they created music that was nothing short of spellbinding."*** - Paul Riley, Getintothis, LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC HALL'S MUSIC ROOM -

In 2017 Eduardo was commissioned to write a new composition for his Hull City of Culture 2017 project "From Tree to Sea" celebrating the East Riding region. This multimedia project involved many local musicians, lyrics by Ian McMillan and video production by East Riding College student Harley Young. Eduardo's latest compositions are featured on his new album "Las Olas de Niebla" (2018), dedicated to his brother the acclaimed artist José Niebla. Like all his albums it's a personal journey: "trying to forge feelings into notes, to leave behind you a landscape of human observations. It's a lifetime endeavour, trying to sculpt music into poetry - sometimes you get closer than others but, when it reaches that quality, music has that possibility."

Eduardo continues to tour, compose and record and his musical genius touches the lives of all who he encounters:

***"Dramatic, emotional, spicy, swift fingered ... Niebla continues to play from the heart."***  
- THE HERALD -

***"Niebla proves his mastery & composing genius with every touch."***  
- DIE RHEINPFALZ -