

Vicente Amigo

Tierra



Different. Global. Surprising. That's how you can describe Vicente Amigo's new album *Tierra*, the most innovative and international of his career which will be released in February 2013. The great Flamenco guitar player has opened his music's window to the fresh air of the British producer Guy Fletcher and recorded in London with musicians from Dire Straits, Mark Knopfler and Capercaillie, in order to offer an exceptional and brave album in which Flamenco music blends naturally with other music styles, opening new paths without losing depth, holding tightly to the inspirational Southern Spanish sounds but wrapped in Celtic melodies, linking light and mist, hovering over different styles to create something completely new.

"I met Guy in Córdoba last year, at a Mark Knopfler show during the Guitar Festival", says Vicente Amigo. "We were introduced by the show's promoters, and the initial idea of playing a song with them developed into a new main objective: I wanted to fuse with all those great musicians. My proposal was to embrace all our freedoms: mine, his as a producer, and the musicians' who collaborated. That is far more important, at a certain point, than music itself".

The album *Tierra* has been produced by Guy Fletcher (Kent, 1960), who was Dire Straits' keyboard player and Mark Knopfler's inseparable collaborator. As a musician he has also worked with Roxy Music, Mick Jagger, Nothing Hillbillies, Randy Newman, Tina Turner, Willie De Ville, Brian Ferry, Aztec Camera ... An emblematic British musician who has placed Vicente Amigo's guitar in a new dimension of lyricism, dream-state, rhythmic beats, tone variety, brightness ... An artistic connection going beyond different types of music, styles, languages. "He (Vicente Amigo) doesn't speak much English and I don't speak Spanish", says Guy Fletcher. "We have made an effort, but we really haven't had any communication problems, because we had the universal language of music".

Recorded at British Grove Studios (London), this album boasts Richard Cooper as sound engineer and Guy Fletcher in charge of the production. The work of the musicians who have collaborated, makes *Tierra* a unique album. Apart from Vicente Amigo (guitar, vocals, cajón drum, hands-clapping) and Guy Fletcher (organ, piano), this record features other artists like Danny Cummings (percussion, drums) who has played with Dire Straits, Paul McCartney, Tina Turner, George Michael, Elton John, Pet Shop Boys, Mark Knopfler, Simply Red ... Having released four albums as a solo artist, Mike McGoldrick (whistles and uilleann pipes) is also a member of Capercaillie and has played with Afro-Celt Sound System, Mark Knopfler, Sharon Shannon ... The Scotsman John McCusker (fiddle) has already released 5 albums as a solo artist and has also produced Eddie Reader and Kate Rusby's albums; apart from playing with Mark Knopfler, Jerry Douglas, Paul Weller ... Donald Shaw (accordion) is a member of Capercaillie and has recorded with Nancy Griffith, Peter Gabriel, Ornette Coleman, Dulce Pontes, Bonnie Raitt ... and lastly, Ewen Vernal (upright bass) – and also a member of Capercaillie – has played with Lou Reed, Michael Brecker, Chris Rea, Deacon Blue, Kate Rusby ...

All the tracks included in *Tierra* have been written by Vicente Amigo and the arrangements were done by himself and Guy Fletcher. The album includes *Prólogo y Epílogo*, *Estación Primavera*, *Tierra*, *Bolero a mis padres*, *Campos de San Gregorio*, *Rio de la Seda*, *Canción de Laura*, *Idílico* and *Roma*. This is the seventh studio album recorded by this amazing guitarist based in Córdoba (but born in Seville) and it also proves to be his most universal work. Not only has the essence of flamenco music been kept untouched in this album, but also new and fresh sounds have been integrated into it, thus placing Vicente Amigo's music in a wider musical spectrum and off the limits of the flamenco orthodoxy, but maintaining the inspiration, and keeping faithful to his origins and talent which he has been displaying since his debut album in 1991.

Tierra is the latest work by Vicente Amigo, one of the greatest flamenco guitar players ever, who has been widely recognized: Latin Grammy for Best Flamenco Album in 2001, Best Guitar Player by the Guitar Player Magazine in 1993, First Prize at the Flamenco Guitar International Contest (Badajoz) 1988, First Prize at the "Cante de las Minas de la Unión" National Contest in 1998, "Ramon Montoya" Guitar Prize at the XII National Flamenco Art Contest (Córdoba) 1989, Music Prize in 1998, 1999 and 2005, "Ondas" Prize in 2002; he was also nominated for the Latin Grammy in 2006, he was awarded with the Critics Prize in 2009, the "Patriarca del Flamenco" Award in 2010 ...

Having performed over 500 live shows and sold over 600.000 albums worldwide (Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Finland, Portugal, Japan, Argentina ...), Vicente Amigo's career has produced the following albums: *De mi Corazón al Aire* (1991), *Vivencias Imaginadas* (1995), *Poeta* (1997), *Ciudad de las Ideas* (2000), *Un momento en el Sonido* (2005) and *Paseo de Gracia* (2009). All of them have been marvelously welcome by the public and critics, revealing Vicente Amigo as one of the best in his field. He has also collaborated with great artists like José Mercé, Camarón, Sting, Alejandro Sanz, Rosario, Carmen Linares, Manolo Sanlúcar, Khaled and Miguel Bosé, and also boasts performances on stage with John McLaughlin, Al DiMeola and Milton Nascimento, among others. Vicente Amigo is nowadays considered one of the most creative Flamenco guitar players and his career's steady evolution is now reflected in *Tierra*.

The international premier of *Tierra* will be at the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow on January 18th 2013; the starting point of a world tour that will kick off in Europe in March ... "I'm really excited about this album because it has a positive message. It pursues beauty, the land, the embrace of different lands. That's why the album's title is *Tierra*", says Vicente Amigo.

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