

Flamenco guitarist Eric Vaarzon Morel has performed in a wide variety of productions, played among others with trumpet player Eric Vloeimans, guitarists Jan Akkerman (Focus), Leonardo Amuedo, Harry Sacksioni, Jesse van Ruller and actor Gijs Scholten van Aschat. Eric played twice his own compositions at the prestigious North Sea Jazz Festival Rotterdam (with Bigband Codarts and Marea Group) and was the supporting act when Diana Reeves sang in 2006 in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. The Concertgebouw Jazz Orchestra performed Eric's compositions in 2008/2009 in the Concertgebouw en Bimhuis, the Jazztemple of Amsterdam and the Netherlands.

Eric is a popular guest in radio- and television programmes such as *De Wereld Draait Door* (*The World Turning Around*) and *Vrije Geluiden* (*Free Sounds*).

Eric Vaarzon Morel, son of the art painter Wim Vaarzon Morel, was only sixteen when he studied under Paco Peña at the *7e Rencontre de la Guitare* in France. At nineteen, inspired by this event he left home for Spain where he lived and worked for two years. In the 1980s he travelled throughout Europe with the Swiss group "Flamencos en Route". Playing his own flamenco compositions he has toured annually with his back up group Chanela. As a regular member of the Cuadro Flamenco he was heard for six years in theatres and on concert platforms all over Holland, Belgium, Germany and Italy. For years now Eric has been integrating Western music and flamenco into 'flamenco de hoy' (today's flamenco).

Recently Eric performed twice in The Apollo NY with the Ballet Hipánico his own compositions on a choreography by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

Coming up theatre season 2017/18: "Irish Nights" with Leoni Jansen, "Duende" with Gijs Scholten van Aschat and "5 Great Guitars" with Jan Kuiper and Harry Sacksioni.

### **Annual theatre tours in Holland**

2016/17 "Lorca, noches en los jardines de Granada" with pianist Thomas Beijer.

2015/16 "Apocalyps" (The mystery of Jeroen Bosch) with soprano Claron McFadden and flamenco dancer Raquela Soblechero

2014/15 "Santiago" with singer/songwriter Leoni Jansen

2013/14 "El Aguador" solo guitar

2012/13 "Inspiración" (tribute to Paco de Lucía) with flamenco singer Carlos Dénia

In 2012 Eric toured in 2011 and 2012 along the Dutch concert halls with a program about the Spanish hero Don Quijote in which he mixed rap music with jazz and flamenco.

Eric has written (libretto), composed (music) and performed in 2010 his main musical theatre project until now, the first flamenco opera "El Greco de Toledo". The work contains a symbiosis of flamenco-, classical-, jazz- and world music together with flamenco dance. El Greco de Toledo attracted 16.000 spectators to the main music halls in Holland. The CD El Greco de Toledo received favourable reviews in all the national Dutch newspapers.

The Concertgebouw Jazz Orchestra, directed by Henk Meutgeert, with Eric as soloist performed Eric's compositions in 2008/2009 in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and at the Bimhuis, the jazz temple of Amsterdam.

In 2008 Eric performed as special guest in the Lorca-project of the Dutch public broadcaster NPS with the Metropole Orchestra, directed by Vince Mendoza, in Theatre Philharmonie in Haarlem.

Eric presented his solo programme *Solo Flamenco, una historia flamenca*. By special request he played as supporting act in the concert of Dianna Reeves in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, for which he got rave reviews.

Eric played a couple of years in the program Five Great Guitars, with among others Jan Akkerman (Focus), Leonardo Amuedo and Harry Sacksioni, uniting jazz, folk, Latin and flamenco guitar music. They toured all over the world.

In 2003/2004 Eric toured with Eric Vloeimans (trumpet) and played the Concierto de Aranjuez, flamenco and jazz in the program *Miles of sketches of Spain*. Extra concerts, together with the Zappstringquartet were given in 2005.

In the 1999 - 2002 seasons Eric is the special guest of Flairck. Flairck's Symphony of the Old World, playing in Germany, Holland and Belgium, Circus Jeroen Bosch and as from September 2002 Flairck's new program commemorating the 4th centenary of the United East India Company, the VOC.

In 1999 Eric composed and performed the music for Toneelschuur Haarlem's production of "De Ongelukkige" (The Unhappy One) written by Abdelkader Benali and based on Louis Couperus' novel of the same name about the last Moorish king, Boabdil.

*'Guitarist Eric Vaarzon Morel's flamenco, a Spanish genre with Arabic roots, is the pivot on which the production rests. Vaarzon Morel has reinforced and supplemented the Arabic element with Turkish and Indian influences. This magnificent music carries the whole. Vaarzon Morel switches effortlessly from fiery, impassioned emotions to melancholy. One moment he scarcely touches the strings, the next he thumps the guitar as if it were a percussion instrument.' (.....) musically it remains a fabulously beautiful performance.'* (NRC Handelsblad, 5 January, 1999)

The programme Turkish soefi and flamenco was an encounter between Eastern mysticism and Andalusian realism. Combinations of stringed instruments like the kanun with the guitar, rhythmic improvisations on the caja and kûdum with the mystical melody of the ney. At the invitation of the Kulsan Foundation Eric played this programme with Tahir Aydogdu and others on major concert platforms in the Netherlands and Istanbul.

## Abroad

Abroad Eric has given solo concerts at festivals in Germany (Flamenco Festival '95 Potsdam Berlin), Iceland (International Guitar Festival), France (Festival de la Guitare Castres broadcasted by Radio France), Spain (Madrid, Sevilla, Barcelona), Norway (Bergen), Italy (Lugano), Belgium (Antwerpen, Brussels, Gent). He toured in Germany (Berlin, Köln, Hamburg and Dresden), Austria (Vienna), Switzerland (Zürich, Bern, Lausanne) and in Italy with "Flamencos en Route". Together with Jan Akkerman (Focus), Eric toured the Dutch West Indies with the Five Great Guitars. In Turkey (Istanbul, Ankara) he presented the program Soefi and Flamenco (with dance and songs). November 2010 Eric toured throughout India together with 3 other guitarists, performing successful in Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Delhi.

## Conservatorium

Eric is principal teacher of flamenco guitar at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam.

## Movies

Eric played and composed special flamenco guitar tracks for the movies *Leef!* and *Het Schnitzelparadijs*.

## Discography

- 1992 ~ **Flamenco de hoy** (Lucho label, published by Frontdyk Music,EMI)
- 2000 ~ **Sol y Sombra** (published by Peer Music Benelux)
- 2007 ~ **Marea** (published by Eric Vaarzon Morel distributed by Coast to Coast)
- 2012 ~ **El Greco de Toledo** (flamenco opera published by Eric Vaarzon Morel)
- 2013 ~ **Santiago** (theatre programme with Leoni Jansen)
- 2014 ~ **El Aguador** (flamenco guitar solo album)