

# Flamenco

JAZZ

DIRECT FROM  
ANDALUSIA  
SPAIN



## Sergio Monroy *Pianist*

"Flamenco is riding high as one of Europe's most vibrant musics, continually reinventing itself as each new generation takes up its challenges. Sergio Monroy's visionary approach moves between jazz impressionism and contemporary classical." *Ian Fairley, Songlines, 2006.*

## Young prodigy fuses flamenco and jazz

Sergio Monroy has developed a unique synthesis of flamenco and piano music, bringing an incredibly fluid and open style to the piano.

His first album has been acclaimed in the new flamenco community for its fresh and accessible wedding of flamenco and jazz. Sergio fuses many of the components of flamenco; the guitar, the 'palmas' (hand clapping) and the voice bringing all the piano's melodic resources, rhythm and harmony into play.

Sergio Monroy Quintet  
Spring Jazzfestival Arnhem, Rotterdam, 2005



"Best Flamenco Instrumental disk"



2004 National Critics Award

In 2003 Sergio recorded his first album entitled "Monroy, Flamenco Piano", which includes collaborations from flamenco greats like Raúl Gálvez, Javier Ruibal, Miguel Poveda and Alfonso Gamaza. It won second prize in the category of "Best Instrumental Flamenco Disk" at the 2004 *National Critics Awards*.

Born in Cadiz in 1980 Sergio Monroy developed his love of the piano at a young age. He trained at the Manuel de Falla Conservatory in Cadiz, where he developed technical prowess through dedication to the classics. However his love of flamenco drew him away from the staid environment of classical conservatory life and before long he found himself at odds with his tutors and dropped out.

Fortunately his timing was good; a new generation of flamenco players was emerging in Cadiz under the inspiration of established flamenco and jazz players such as Chano Domingues, Javier Rubial and Pedro Cortejosa. Jazz musicians in the south were finding new ways to fuse flamenco and jazz which inspired Monroy.

However as an interpreter of flamenco, the piano was not the usual tool and Cadiz could take him no further, so Sergio uprooted and headed for Madrid to train under two of Spain's most innovative pianists; Arturo Pavon and Antonio Escobar.

Monroy returned to Cadiz in the mid-nineties where he performed his first solo work. With a new found confidence he initiated his international career by backing musicians in various flamenco jazz projects. In 2003 he recorded his first solo disc of flamenco jazz entitled "Monroy, Flamenco Piano", igniting his career as a solo artist. Since then he has received acclaim for performances in England, Germany, Austria and Switzerland.



Sergio: turns 27 this year

## What the critics say...

"... where the traditional Spanish musical expression meets the spontaneous approach of jazz piano." *Conon Murphy, Fly Magazine, May 2006.*

"...totally original and mesmerizing!" *Ian Fairley, Songlines, 2006*

"...a new contemporary vision of this archetypal idiom." *Brighton Festival Review, 2006*

"(Sergio Monroy)...remodels and modernizes the style 'flamenco piano' and the skilled musicians that have collaborated with him on his premier album certifies that Monroy has a future." *F.Rienda, Europa Sur, March 2004.*

Sergio Monroy Quintet, Sevilla 2004



Sound Check at the 2006 Brighton Music Festival (England)

The musicians: Oscar Lago, guitar; Nolin, drums; Katumba, percussion; Alejandro Benítez, bass

