

Ruben Monteiro

Ruben Monteiro is a producer, multi-instrumentalist and composer with an unusual breadth of musical genres. His projects range from Mediterranean music to progressive rock, from Atlantic to Eastern traditions, through fusion, electronic and even the most extreme modern and contemporary sounds.



THE WORK

His work generally focuses on the constant dialogue between influences from different cultures and musical traditions and modern music.

Over a career spanning more than two decades, marked by the release of 25 albums and one book, he has devoted himself to learning different musical languages and the intensive study of the guitar (classical, fretless and microtonal), the Turkish Saz Bağlama, the Arabic Oud, the Hurdy Gurdy, the Afghan Rubab, the Cretan Laouto, the Mandolin, the Viola Braguesa, the Portuguese Guitar, the Drums, the Piano and singing.



COLLABORATIONS

Over the years, he has collaborated and performed with countless artists, bands and orchestras, including Alma Menor, MU, Zeca Medeiros, Sons da Suévia, the Torres Vedras Volunteer Fire Brigade Band, Mar & Ilha, Mauro Ramos, the Thíria project, The Batelleurs, among others in Portugal, and internationally with Chris Woods (UK), Efrén López (Spain), Ostad Farzad Andalibi (Iran), Volkan Incüvez (Turkey), David Severac (France), Sadhu Das and Kangal Keep (India), Belle Morte (Poland), the International Orchestra of Macau conducted by Chinese Maestro Yan Huichang, the 'One World One Family' Symphony Orchestra from India, the 'What is not ours to carry' project by Allison Clark in Ireland, the Italian Orchestra 'Montelago 2023', among others.



MUSICAL PRODUCTION

In addition to his work as a musician and composer, he is also involved in music production, having produced most of his own work, as well as productions by national artists such as Mar & Ilha (Azores), Ricardo Gordo, Jaya Girão, Magmell, Jimmy Joe, Pedro Mendes, Ó Diácho, Modo Vilão, Rising Vultures, Albaluna, Moon Rover, Dracarin, the soundtrack for Carlos Fraga's documentary 'Ser Cigano' (Being Gypsy), among others. On the international scene, he has produced and continues to produce works for practically the whole world, including the United States, India, Turkey, all of Europe, Brazil, China and Japan in his daily work, where the albums by Maryam Smith (USA/India) and Vitor Maciel (Brazil) stand out, as well as his participation in the albums by Belle Morte (Poland) and Jerry Tambora Garcia (USA), to name but a few.





HIGHLIGHTS AND AWARDS

Throughout his career, he has been recognised for his projects and those he has been involved in, such as the 2022 Gold Award presented by New York Festivals TV and Film Awards for the music video he participated in, 'A Musical Toast', by CGTN (China). Also noteworthy is his participation in the 'Cloud Orchestra' with an Hurdy Gurdy workshop for the whole world through the National and Traditional Orchestra of China.

In 2025, he participated in the world's longest World Music festival, breaking two Guinness records in India at the World Cultural Festival 'One World One Family' organised by the Sathya Sai Grama institution in celebration of the centenary of Bhagawan Sri Sathya

Sai Baba. He was also part of the orchestra with the largest number of nationalities involved.



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

Education and teaching are part of his journey, having contributed to the training of countless musicians and students by sharing his knowledge of different musical languages, composition and production techniques, and the various instruments he masters in workshops and classes. He conducts the Orquestra Danada, a community orchestra that brings together musicians and music lovers of all genres and is open to the entire community.



ALBALUNA

Albaluna is the name of the project to which he has devoted most of his attention and focus. It is a band he founded in 2010 with the aim of merging his various musical universes, namely traditional music from different cultural heritages and progressive rock. With this project, he has released five albums and four EPs, with which he has travelled the world, visiting China, India, Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, the Mayotte Islands, Canada and practically all of Europe.



Their history includes performances with different groups in venues and festivals such as the Library of Alexandria in Egypt, the Greek Temple of Segesta in Sicily, Italy, the Macau Cultural Centre in China, the Ahmed Adnan Saygun Sanat Merkezi hall in Izmir, Turkey, the MED Festival in Loulé, Portugal, the Penang World Music Festival in Malaysia, the VEF Culture Palace in Riga, Latvia, the Celtic Festival of Montelago in Italy, the MISR public library in Cairo, Egypt, the Valmier Muizas Festival in Latvia, the Tal'Guitart Festival in Agadir, Morocco, the Orientalis Festival in Montreal, Canada, among many others.



PUBLICATIONS

The publication of new works has been a constant in his active artistic life, with a total of 25 publications, including albums and EPs, and a book about the accordion published in 2024, 'O Universo da Sanfona' (The Hurdy Gurdy Universe).

From 2000 to 2025 | Albums and EP's



THE HURDY GURDY UNIVERSE It is a book that explores the relationship between the musician and the instrument, containing an important article on the history of the Hurdy Gurdy and a series of interviews with some of the most iconic figures in the world of the instrument today, such as Nigel Eaton (a musician who has performed with Led Zeppelin and Lorena McKennitt) and the Austrian Matthias Loibner, among many others.

This publication contributes to the history of the Hurdy Gurdy in Portugal and Europe, containing not only previously unpublished information, but also being the first book in Portuguese written by a Portuguese author dedicated to this instrument.



FORMATS, FORMATIONS AND LIVE PERFORMANCES

Ruben Monteiro presents his work under his own name in different formats and with different line-ups, adapting to the type of concert he is proposing.

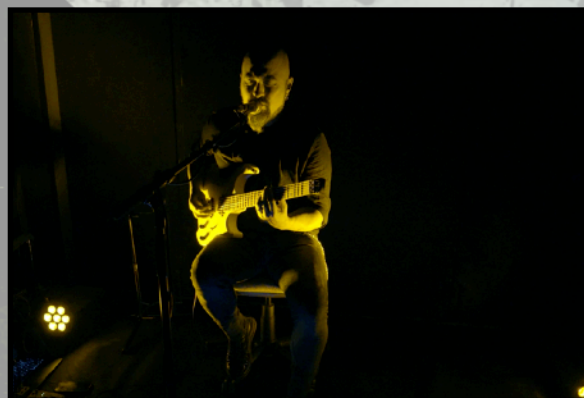
Basing the repertoires of each concert on his personal and original songbook, as well as on his specific instrumental compositions for each of the instruments he plays.

Focusing on his most recent albums, NUBERO, KAIRÓS and CHRONOS, a new show is born where you can hear songs in Portuguese, Turkish and English, as well as the Hurdy Gurdy, microtonal guitar, Turkish bağlama, oud, viola Braguesa and Portuguese guitar.

SOLO CONCERT | UMBRA

A concert of musical syncretism

Solo concert using a loop station, allowing the musician to create different soundscapes with the various instruments layered together. The song is a constant, although in this format we can enjoy a series of compositions specific to each of the instruments. Depending on the occasion, you can enjoy a concert entirely dedicated to the Hurdy Gurdy or a mixture of timbres from various instruments. In this concert, the audience is invited to travel through immersive and intense music, but also to vibrate with strong rhythms and melodies that denote the influences of Mediterranean, Balkan and Portuguese music.



DUETS | KAIRÓS E NUBERO

In dialogue



In this model, we can see different formations depending on the type of concert desired. Ruben Monteiro invites Tiago Santos when it comes to a concert where the rhythm and power of the drums are essential, and Carla Costa for a more intimate concert featuring a dialogue between the flutes and bagpipes with the Hurdy Gurdy and guitars.



TRIOS

Trilogy and energy

In a trio, Ruben Monteiro invites Christian Marr's on bass or classical guitar and Dinis Coelho on percussion. Together they bring to life themes that are part of the instrumental discography, but also more recent original songs. In this format, instruments from the Iberian Peninsula to Central Asia can be heard.



QUARTETS

Chronos

The quartet format focuses on the repertoire of the album CHRONOS, released in May 2025. In this concert, the featured instruments are the electric saz, the Arabic oud and the electric guitar, which contrast with Carla Costa's wind instruments, mainly the Turkish ney and whistles. The quartet is completed by Tiago Santos on drums and Christian Marr's on bass.



THE PILLARS OF HERCULES

Music and pedagogy



In this concert, the musician takes us on a journey from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean through different musical instruments. Starting in the Atlantic region with the Viola Braguesa and the Portuguese Guitar, followed by the Hurdy Gurdy, moving on to the Mediterranean region with the Arabic Oud, then the Laouto of Crete and ending with the Turkish Bağlama, the repertoire is based on original compositions for each of these instruments, representing and respecting the cultures of each.

This show is not only entertaining, but also a moment of knowledge sharing, as the audience follows the evolution of this journey with a brief explanation between each theme.

OTHER FORMATS

In certain circumstances, other musicians and artists may be invited to join in the creation of a performance that differs from the proposals. Thus, the themes of each concert may also change.

An example of this is the UMBRA concert, a duet accompanied by piano and synthesizers, or the THE PILLARS OF HERCULES project, which takes the audience on a musical journey from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

CONTACTS

+351 965705922

rubenmonteiro.prog@gmail.com

WEB

www.rubenmonteiro.pt

CANAIS



west wave
Productions