



AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERTO BELLATALLA

International Italian Musician - Performing At Galeria Luz De La Vida In May

Could you tell us a bit about your lifestyle as an international musician?

My name is Roberto Bellatalla, born in Italy.

After some years working with music in Italy, I moved first to Amsterdam, and later to London, where I spent most of my life.

I was involved in the London music scene dedicated to jazz and free improvisation. Long standing member of bands like Dreamtime, Louis Moholo's Viva la Black, Elton Dean quartet, trio and Newsense, The Shakedown Club, John Law quartet, Jazz Afrika, the London Bass Trio, Snakes of Sound, Byron Pope trio, Mike Cooper's Truth in the Abstract Blues, Les Etoiles de Essaouira (a traditional Moroccan Gnawa group). Toured and played in Europe and in a variety of countries, including Russia, China, South Africa, Serbia, Morocco. Involved with different styles of dance, like Butho, Contact, Contemporary classical dance, and dance for people with disability.

What instrument(s) do you play?

I play double bass, piccolo bass (a 1/4 size instrument between bass and cello), didjeridoo, berimbau, gongs and a bit of percussion.

What sort of venues do you like to play at?

I'm used to playing in a variety of different situations; the one I prefer is when I can be in direct contact with people. I wrote and played live for theatre pieces, and took part in the music for the soundtrack of the film "Mary" by Abel Ferrara.

I also participated for four years in the "Muse" project, conceived by Yehudi Menuhin to bring artists to elementary schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods and interact with children.

Collaborations also in mental health centers, with music therapy and training courses.

All these experiences contributed enormously to my personal and musical development.

Who or what are your main influences?

I always listened to all sorts of music, classical, jazz, world music, opera, rock and progressive, I love it all and all have influenced me.

What made you choose to be a musician?

I started playing jazz guitar when I was ten, it was an urge, I couldn't think of anything else. At fourteen I got hold of a bass, started working with a dance band and here I am, still playing music.