

Excerpt from the article "Madame Guitar"

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At the end of the event, the organizer Marco Miconi produced as is his want a character who goes beyond the specific figure of a guitarist strictly speaking, in order to introduce him to the Madame Guitar Festival audience in general, not just to the specialists. The choice fell this year on Gary Lucas, guitarist and composer from New York of multitudinous activity, known to us especially for his multi-partnership with Captain Beefheart and his collaboration with Jeff Buckley

In particular, some of Gary's instrumental compositions become the basis for Jeff's famous songs: "Rise Up To Be" became "Grace" and "And You Will" became "Mojo Pin" , both songs featured on the "Grace" album by Jeff Buckley (1994); also Gary's composition "Fool's Cap" became "Song To No One", published after Jeff's death - in 1997 – on the album "Songs To No One 1991-1992" (2002), a collection of studio demos and live performances by Jeff Buckley and Gary Lucas. During his performance in Tricesimo, Lucas sought to recall these collaborations by performing a version of "Mojo Pin"-- and to perform it on stage he brought on Marina Conti , an excellent Roman singer and a great lover of Jeff's music.

There is another instrumental composition of Gary titled "A Minstrel Wandering Eye which appeared on his album "Evangeline" (1996-97), which was intended originally as the instrumental basis of a song for Jeff Buckley, but it was never completed. Marina Conti subsequently has written lyrics and vocal melodies on this original music of Gary Lucas, and the new song, entitled "You Will See My Flame Again", was performed by Gary Lucas for the first time together with Marina here at the Madame Guitar Festival.

Playing the acoustic guitar, electric guitar and dobro, Gary sailed through an extensive and diverse number of selections, as befits a good experimental rocker : from "Sure 'Nuff' N Yes I Do " taken from the "Safe as Milk" album (1967) of Captain Beefheart, to Lucas' instrumental arrangement of "She's a Rainbow" by the Rolling Stones; from "Out From Under " from his "Bad Boys of the Arctic" album (1994) to "Fata Morgana " from his "Coming Clean" album (2006); from "Special Rider Blues" by Skip James which appeared on Lucas' recent world music album with the Indian vocalist Najma Akhtar, "Rishte" (2009), to a medley from his album of 30's Chinese pop "The Edge Of Heaven" (2002), Gary's most successful album to date; from his arrangement of the "Overture" from "Tannhauser " by Wagner which appeared on his "Evangeline" album (1996-97), to "I'm So Glad" by Skip James.

With the indefatigable Gary Lucas, there is no danger of being bored.

--Andrea Carpi