

ABDELLI

- Among Brothers -

Abdelli was born in **Behalil, Kabylie (Algeria)**, during the war for independence in exile, far from his native village Kenour. The bombing by the French airforce of his native village forced his parents to seek refuge elsewhere.

After Independence in 1962, Abdelli and his family eventually settled in the coastal town of Dellys, renowned for its delicious seafood and it was here that his musical journey began by constructing his first guitar from an empty oil can, a plank of wood and fishing line.

Abdelli learned to play the guitar before he was introduced to the mandol. The master of chaâbi **CHAÏD Moh-Esguir**, his teacher, offered him one because he sensed in Abdelli a hope to bring back the popular music of kabyl.

In 1984 he recorded his **first album** but sadly this was never to see the light of day. It was followed two years later by an album that sold over 12,000 copies but despite having covered the costs, Abdelli never received any payment from the record company.

Disillusioned by his experiences and armed with the desire to experience other cultures, Abdelli left Algeria with a one-way ticket bound for **Denmark**. Upon his arrival, and after spending the night in jail, he was expelled. The next morning, he was put on the first flight to **Brussels**. In Brussels, the plane for Algeria was delayed two hours, so Abdelli decided to take advantage of that time and visit the city. Instead of the image of the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen, he had the images of the Manneken-Pis. Ever since that day, Brussels has not let go of him.

In October 1987 Abdelli recorded his third album, «**Abdelli à Bruxelles**».

Several years passed with Abdelli struggling to earn a living.

Finally, **in 1995** the album '**New Moon**' marked Abdelli's **international debut** for **Peter Gabriel's Real World Records**. This album opened wide for him the doors of the international music scene, including festivals such as **WOMAD** (Reading, Cacérès, Vienna, The Canaries, Sicily), **Musique Métisse** in Angoulême and many others....

He also toured **in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, France, England, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, the USA and Canada**.

During this period, Abdelli performed alongside both **Yehudi Menuhin** and **Ravi Shankar**, and joined **Peter Gabriel** in Paris for a special performance of the **album 'UP'**. For this occasion, he sang in **duo with Peter** the celebrated song «**In your Eyes**» Abdelli has also collaborated with such luminaries as **Loreena McKennitt, Natacha Atlas, Marta Sebastien** and worked on a project alongside **Mikhalis Michaloudis, Ross Daly and Hossam Ramzy**.

In 2000 he composed the original soundtrack for the film « **Au de-là de Gibraltar** », a film directed by Mourad BOUCIF and Taylan BARMAN. This film traces the challenges and the hopes of Moroccan immigrants in Belgium.

In 2001 Abdelli came to the end of another musical journey; a journey that culminated in his second Real World release - '**Among Brothers**'. This is a work imbued with experience gained from recording in diverse settings; **from Azerbaijan to Burkina Faso and Cape Verde to Belgium**. It is also a work unified by identifiable human experience - stories of exile, love and death, unhappiness, betrayal, misery and injustice, all informed by Berber poetry traditions.

'Among Brothers' thrust Abdelli further onto the world stage and he once again embarked on a series of respected festival appearances: **WOMAD (Spain, UK), Dranouter & Couleurs Café (Belgium), the Lotus Festival in Bloomington (USA), The Chicago Festival of World Music (USA), the Rawafid Festival of Casablanca (Morocco), The Festival of World Music at Lahore Theater (Pakistan), and Small World in Toronto (Canada)** to name a few. Again, his love of performing meant he also conducted his own headlining tours **in Spain, Portugal, Germany, France, the USA and Canada**.

The journey that began with an old oil can continues, with each day bringing new adventures!

For further information please visit **www.abdelli.com**