

Guitarist:

Eric Hansen

At a young age Eric had a fondness for Classical, Jazz, Flamenco music and Pop music. Spending days listening to guitar giants like Carlos Montoya, Al di Meola, John McLaughlin, John Williams and Alex Lifeson had an enormous affect on Eric's sense of melody throughout his early development. Eric began studying the guitar at age 14 and was performing professionally with local rock groups by the age 16. Eric attended Florida Atlantic University where he studied Classical and Jazz guitar. He was the first guitarist to complete the Honors Performance Program at F.A.U. and graduated with academic honors in 1996. During his 4 years in college, Eric also studied Flamenco and Latin American music musicians from Spain and Peru.

In 2001 Eric began his solo career and landed his first distribution deal with Neurodisc records. Eric's first two releases, "Without Words" and "Romacero" both spent time in the top 25 of Billboard's New Age Chart. Eric's third release, Colores del Alma, continued on with successful sales while his local following continued to grow with steady local performances. With his first three releases in the style of Spanish guitar Eric decided to switch gears and record a Classical guitar album entitled, "Across the Universe, a Beatles Journey". This release is a tribute to the music of the Beatles featuring original arrangements by Eric. "Across the Universe" continues to be a consistent seller on iTunes. Finally, Eric continued to display his versatility by releasing his fifth CD, "360 Blue" which was in the style of Smooth Jazz and featured collaborations with Marion Meadows and some of south Florida's finest musicians.

For his sixth and soon to be released album for 2010 entitled, "String Theory" Eric combines his favorite elements of Flamenco, Jazz and Classical with Latin and Middle Eastern percussion. This ideal blend creates a fresh new sound with bold melodies and soaring improvisations. This release also includes and fiery rendition of the Eagles, "Hotel California" which has been a crowd favorite since it was performed.

"Eric Hansen really struts his stuff through Without Words, and it will be interesting to watch his sure to be stellar career. He has a real passion for guitar, and nowhere on this album does he just "phone it in". It is always exciting to listen to a recording that was obviously made with a deep sense of pride and love. Without Words is truly a shining example of how fantastic instrumental music can be. "

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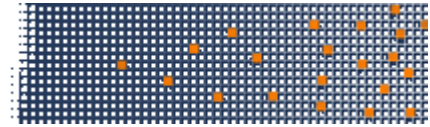
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Without Words Says So Much

Artist: Eric Hansen

Album: *Without Words*

Label: Neurodisc

Released: 2001



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Nuevo Flamenco is a blast to listen to, especially when it's done really well. Inspired by the work of Carlos Montoya and Paco de Lucia, classically trained guitarist Eric Hansen makes an amazing new entry into the genre with his album *Without Words*. Believe me when I tell you that it has a lot to say.



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Uplifting and energizing, Nuevo Flamenco is some of the most fantastic instrumental music available today. With a definite latin flavor, *Without Words* is a tribute to some of the world's greatest Flamenco Guitarists. Eric has a distinct playing style that would make Govi or Ottmar Liebert jealous.



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The album opens with the quick-paced "Punta Arenas", and gives us a taste of what to expect throughout the album. With Flamenco guitar in the forefront, with other Flamenco elements such as clapping and fast percussion also in attendance. The Bryan Adams tune "Have You Really Ever Loved a Woman" is next, and it is beautifully recreated with an interesting Flamenco vibe.



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"Calle Ocho" has something of a gypsy feel to it, and for me, it created imagery of a latin neighborhood in the summertime. The two part "Reflections of Her" is next, and it opens with pensive percussion, and moves into somber guitar, which gradually becomes

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more complex. Inspired by the art of Surrealist Michael Parkes, "Night Flight" is a quick-tempo piece that again presents the full flavor of Nuevo Flamenco.

"After the Rain" is a refreshing, upbeat track that perfectly describes that warm feeling of being outdoors after a storm, and the sun begins to shine again. Closing the album is the fast and cool "Equinox", and I think it really represents the state of Nuevo Flamenco, and shows how exciting this genre can be.

Eric Hansen really struts his stuff through *Without Words*, and it will be interesting to watch his sure to be stellar career. He has a real passion for guitar, and nowhere on this album does he just "phone it in". It is always exciting to listen to a recording that was obviously made with a deep sense of pride and love. *Without Words* is truly a shining example of how fantastic instrumental music can be.

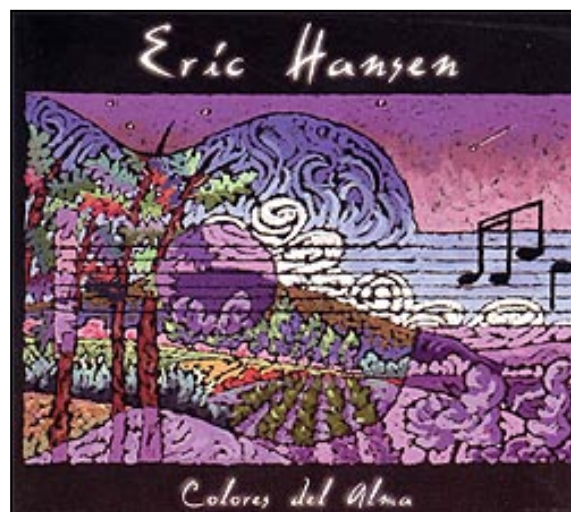
For more information about Eric Hansen, see <http://www.nuevo-flamenco.com/>.

Track Details

1. Punta Arenas
2. Have You Really Ever Loved A Woman
3. Calle Ocho
4. Reflections of Her Part 1
5. Reflections of Her Part 2
6. Night Flight
7. Costa Rica
8. La Scala
9. After the Rain
10. Moon Rise
11. Twilight
12. Equinox

ERIC HANSEN | COLORES DEL ALMA

SEPTEMBER 2003



Neurodisc 2003
7243 5 90025 2 1
artist [website](#)

Without Words was Eric Hansen's 2001 debut release, a masterful, multi-tracked solo guitar showcase that sported immaculate original compositions and a marvellous arrangement of Bryan Adams' "Have You Really Ever Loved A Woman". 2002's *Romancero* cashed in on the popularity of Hansen's earlier love song arrangement by following up with an essentially all-standards album including such hits as "Fields of Golds", "Sailing", "Killing Me Softly" and "The Look of Love". Though brilliant in its very classical approach to complex instrumentation, the focus on such well-known material seemed a bit of a step-back considering this musician/composer's obvious creative talents. This year's *Colores del Alma* returns him full circle to *Without Words*, albeit at an even higher level of stylistic variety and high-speed prowess Jorge Strunz style.

A regular live performer at Florida's upscale *Caffe Luna Rosa* Italian restaurant in Delray Beach [below], Eric Hansen studied Classical and Jazz guitar at Florida Atlantic University and also performed Flamenco in a Spanish guitar duo during college. He concluded his formal studies at the New England Conservatory's masters program for Classical guitar but finds his first love in a unique crossover blend that mixes Classical, Jazz, Flamenco and, on his latest, even Cuban and Brazilian-inspired, replete with deftly realized horn arrangements by Ed Calle on "Playa Delray" and "Salsera".

Like J.K. Rowling whose boundless imagination, in Harry Potter, created the biggest literary phenomenon in recent memory, so does Hansen retain your attention and curiosity from track to track, something that sadly eluded The Gipsy King's lead guitarist on his eponymous solo debut *Tonino Baliardo* [Nonesuch 79537-2] and has similarly afflicted Armik whose numerous releases have degenerated into carbon copies. With respectful but clearly unique nods to Strunz & Farah, this guitarist's harmonic sophistication and purity of delivery -- clearly the beneficiary of a solid classical foundation that demands not only precision but sets high standards for compositional structure -- make him a unique entry in the overgrazed nouveau flamenco category.



As you'd expect from Eric's chosen beach culture domicile facing Cuba and The Bahamas, his music exudes a sunny, easy listening vibe with swingin' rhythms, expansive melodies and crafty compositional touches that include a Rumba flamenco makeover of J. S. Bach's piano intro to his *Prelude & Fugue in C Minor*. While, as the Gipsies say, anyone can learn to play like greased lightning if they just practice long and hard enough -- think erstwhile demon Al DiMeola -- the musicians who can put their craft truly in the service of the music are far fewer. Eric Hansen's first and foremost a very gifted composer/arranger who so happens to also possess the handyman tools of the trade stuck in his belt. Using Ramirez and Pedro Maldonado flamenco and Robert Ruck Classical guitars, he erects not only cozy, warm, inviting, 'liveable' soundscapes, but does so with uptown finesse and cosmopolitan flair that relocate into fancier and fancier neighborhoods as his albums progress. Call it a fortuitous meeting of mature chops and artistic intelligence. In short, if you love the kind of guitar music that rose like a tidal wave in the wake of the Gipsy Kings from Arles, put this one on your list. It acknowledges precedents but carves out its own unique and very tasty niche as did Frenchman Eric Fernandez before. Encore, Monsignor Hansen! What'll be on your menu next? Whatever it is, count me in.



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ERIC HANSEN: "NUEVO FLAMENCO ROMANCERO"

By DAN AQUILANTE

April 30, 2002 -- **ERIC HANSEN**
 "Nuevo Flamenco Romancero"
 Capitol/Neurdisc

It takes only a single spin of Eric Hansen's "Nuevo Flamenco Romancero" to realize that he is a master of contemporary flamenco.

While he has all of the technical ability that is required of this very demanding traditional guitar form, he is also a free thinker who hears how it can translate into modern pop.

Make no mistake about it: This is as easy-listening as the genre gets. But despite Hansen's overused shaky-thing - sh-sh-sh-ing rhythms sanding the back beat - and song selections that are questionable - his guitar work is flawless.

Of the songs on this all-instrumental disc, "Viento de Verano," a Hansen original, is excellent, as are the covers of Sting's "Fields of Gold," the Lennon/McCartney classic "And I Love Her," and the album's top tune, Brian Wilson's "God Only Knows."

Hansen has a gentle hand when he makes the guitar weep for this contemplative, mood-setting music that makes you want to ride the elevator past your floor.

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Top New Age Albums

Issue Date: June 8, 2002

This Week	Last Week	Two Weeks Ago	Weeks on Chart	"Title," Artist Imprint Catalog No. Distributing Label	Peak Position
1	1	1	79	A Day Without Rain , Enya ▲ 6 Warner Bros. 47426 Reprise	1
2	12	-	2	The Rose , Mediaeval Babes 30256 Nettwerk	2
3	2	2	35	Simple Things , Jim Brickman RCA 11589 Windham Hill	2
4	3	3	9	Once In A Red Moon , Secret Garden 548678 Decca	2
5	4	4	11	Mosaico , Govi 11774 Higher Octave	4
6	5	8	18	Across An Ocean Of Dreams, 2002 8803 Real Music	3
7	7	7	85	Very Best Of Yanni , Yanni RCA 11568 Windham Hill	3
8	8	6	86	If I Could Tell You , Yanni ● Virgin 79893 Virgin	1
9	6	5	6	Healing Garden Music-Relaxation , Roland Hanneman Madacy 8118 Madacy Special Products	5
10	9	10	68	Pure Moods III , Various Artists Virgin 50836 Virgin	2
11	15	15	3	Nuevo Flamenco Romancero , Eric Hansen Capitol 50262 Neurodisc	11
12	10	13	9	Guitarra Del Fuego , Johannes Linstead Real Music 3755 Real Music	6
13	11	12	8	Best Of Narada-New Age , Various Artists Virgin 12157 Narada	6
14	13	9	5	Healing Garden Music-Balance , Roland Hanneman Madacy 8123 Madacy Special Products	9
15	14	-	10	Moroccan Spirit , Various Artists 11028 Higher Octave	7