

# raul midon

“... a one-man band who turns a guitar into an orchestra and his voice into a chorus...”

- New York Times

“Midón has a lovely voice, a beautifully controlled tenor that can express anything from tenderness to passion... And the guy can play. His strumming has a flamenco flourish, but after a while you realize he can do every kind of accompaniment he needs on acoustic guitar.”

- The Guardian

Search for “Raul Midón” on YouTube and you’ll find a clip of the New York-based vocalist, guitarist, and songwriter appearing on The Late Show With David Letterman in 2006. Performing “State of Mind,” the title track from his 2005 debut album, Midón unleashes a silky, soulful tenor and dazzling percussive guitar style – a syncopated, flamenco- and jazz-infused approach in which bass, harmony, and melodic lines emanate from the fretboard in one slap-happy storm. If that weren’t enough, Midón busts out his improvisational mouth horn technique, in which he creates a bebop “trumpet” solo entirely with his lips, earning himself a spontaneous burst of mid-song applause from the audience in the process. It’s a virtuosic performance, and one that reveals what has made Midón such an exciting artist to watch over the past few years.

Midón has always experienced the world differently than most. The son of an Argentinean father and an African-American mother, Raul was born prematurely in a rural hospital in Embudo, New Mexico, where he and his twin brother, Marco, were blinded. Marco now works for NASA as an electrical engineer while Raul followed a musical path inspired by his father, a professional Argentine folkloric dancer.

Midón attended the University of Miami, which he selected for its prestigious jazz curriculum. He remained there after graduating and became an in-demand backup singer, working primarily in the Latin-pop world for such artists as Julio and Enrique Iglesias, Shakira, Ricky Martin, and Alejandro Sanz. He also worked the club circuit, sprinkling the requisite cover songs amid the original tunes he was beginning to write. In 2002, Midón walked away from his lucrative work as a back-up singer to pursue a career as a solo artist in New York City.

He eventually landed a monthly residency at Joe’s Pub and was approached backstage to perform at a show called “The Movie Music of Spike Lee,” at Carnegie Hall, along with Terence Blanchard, Angie Stone, Cassandra Wilson, and Bruce Hornsby. Midón made a name for himself touring throughout the U.S., Europe, and Japan, then released his second solo album, *A World Within a World*, in 2007, which, with its uplifting lyrics about social consciousness and insinuating grooves, went a long way toward further establishing Midón as an artist “who contributes something lasting to the musical landscape,” as NPR said of him.

His third solo effort, *Synthesis*, includes session vets Vinnie Colaiuta (drums), Paulinho Da Costa (percussion), Dean Parks (guitar), and Jamie Muhoberac (keyboards). The result is an intimate, classic-sounding album that is sure to delight newcomers to Midón’s music and those who’ve been following his remarkable talent for years. *Synthesis* was released by Universal in Spring 2010 and Midón continues to tour in support of the album to praise from critics and audiences alike.



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