

## Georges Moustaki - Vagabond (2006)

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1 *J'Aimerais la Vie* 3:39 2 *Tom* 4:55 3 *Les Meres Juives* 4:34 4 *Femme Ronde* 2:41 5  
*Cet Amour D'Ete* 4:09 6 *Vagabond* 7 *Le Soldat* 3:20 8 *J'ai Grand Faiblesse pour les*  
*Femmes* 2:57 9 *Bahia* 3:54

It was doubtless during this tour that Moustaki was inspired to write his new album, "Vagabond" - a suitable title for a singer born in Alexandria to a Greek-Jewish family, who grew up speaking Arabic before eventually moving to France and launching a career that took him to the four corners of the world!

The album "Vagabond", released in September 2005, was mostly recorded in Rio de Janeiro, and featured a number of tributes to the late Brazilian star Tom Jobim, who had been a close friend of Moustaki's. Working with Paula Morelenbaum (one of Jobim's former backing singers) and Philippe Gérard, Moustaki recorded a reworking of "Les Eaux de Mars" (the French adaptation of Jobim's "Aguas de Março" which Moustaki had already immortalised in French) and the song "Tom." Francis Hime, Milton Nascimento's arranger, also collaborated on the album.

Musically speaking, many of the songs on "Vagabond" were coloured with Brazilian influences. But thematically speaking, Moustaki's songs did not revolve around Brazil, the singer preferring to explore more universal human themes. On the title track of the album, "Vagabond", for instance, Moustaki delved into male-female relations via the Greek myth of Ulysses and Penelope. Given his eternal reputation as French lover and Don Juan, it came as no surprise to find that love and passion were also major themes on the album, Moustaki celebrating everything from summer romances to filial affection.

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At the age of 71, the inimitable "Métèque" hit the road again for an impressive concert-packed tour, playing dates in Spain (October 2005), Beirut and France, where he brought the house down in Paris at the Théâtre du Rond-Point (27 – 31 December 2005).

At the end of 2006, Georges Moustaki reached a new level of fame when his name was included in the Who's Who section of Larousse (the famous French dictionary). This inclusion appears to be further confirmation - if any were indeed necessary! - of Moustaki's official status as a legendary figure of French chanson. --- rfimusique.com

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