

## LONE ARK - BIOGRAPHY

Lone Ark is the artist name for renowned Spanish musician, engineer, producer and singer Roberto Sánchez. He is well known internationally for recording, producing and mixing at his A-Lone Ark Muzik Studio in Santander, which he has been running since the late 90s. He also runs his own label, A-Lone Productions. Roberto recorded his first vocal album in 1994 with his first band from Santander under the name of Lone Watti. He released two albums as vocalist with this band and since then he has never stopped writing and singing his own songs full of conscious lyrics with a deep and committed militant roots reggae style.

In 1999 he became the lead singer and musician of different bands such as Loud & Lone, Vibes All-Stars, Better Collie and Super Ape with which he recorded different vocal albums from 1998 to 2004. Same way he was the lead voice for BFD (Basque Dub Foundation) live and at the studio during the period of 2000 to 2006. This collaboration brought the release of a double showcase album under the name of: *BDF meets Loud and Lone* by 2005.

But it was in 2004 when Roberto presented for the first time Lone Ark, his solo project, with the release of the album *Countryside*, on the basque label Brixton Records. This album was the beginning of a new chapter for the militant reggae composed, produced, recorded and mixed in Spain. Since then Roberto also started to achieve international presence releasing a series of 10" - 45rpm vinyls on his A-Lone Productions label with international artists such as Rod Taylor, Earl Zero, Earl 16, Kenny Knotts, African Simba, Benjammin' and himself. In 2006 Roberto released his second Lone Ark album called *Oil and Water* and its dub counterpart *Oil and Water In Dub* alongside some other voices from the label like the ones from Benjammin and Inés Pardo among others. After this album was released Roberto started to be more focused on improving the sound at the studio and the label itself, although he recorded a large number of singles as a vocalist for different labels and producers around Europe (UK, France, Italy, Spain...). The result of this period of improvements was the release of his first two self produced albums in 2010 for international artists on his label: Earl Zero's *And God Said To Man* and Alpheus' *From Creation*.

His next vocal excursion happened right after meeting up with one of the best sound systems in Europe, Blackboard Jungle, and the top band working for them, The Rockers Disciples. The fruits of their collaboration was an intense and rootikal showcase album: Roberto Sánchez *Blackboard Jungle Showcase Vol.2*, released in 2014. After that Roberto again focused his attention on developing a better sound and musicianship at the studio and live, backing and building albums for international and Spanish artists to be released on his label and trying to create a personal sound and way of working. During this period, he met up with a new and extremely talented group of musicians, composers, producers and label owners from Switzerland, the Najavibes / Fruits Records family. They started collaborating together at the studio when Roberto mixed the stunning I Kong showcase album *A Little Walk* in 2014 for them.

## THE 18<sup>TH</sup> PARALLEL - BIOGRAPHY

Fruits Records is a label created and run by musicians. Back in 2017, three of the founding members – Antonin Chatelain (drums), Léo Marin (guitar) and Mathias Liengme (keyboards and percussion) – who used to perform in various Swiss bands as holders or guest members (Njavibes, Cosmic Shuffling, Lee “Scratch” Perry & The White Belly Rats, Leroy “Horsemouth” Wallace & Reggae Virus, Junior Tshaka, Herbalist, Winds of Matterhorn,...) felt the need to find a new name for all their studio activities: they chose The 18<sup>th</sup> Parallel in honour of the geographical latitude of the island of Jamaica. Joined by members of well known Swiss crews such as Addis Record (Stéphane Lamercy) or Kinyama Sounds (Stan Breynaert), as well as members of their live bands Najavibes (Quentin Stern, Alex Schneider, Michael Borcard, Solal Excoffier) or Cosmic Shuffling (Primo Viviani, Loïc Moret, Anthony Dietrich Buclin), and sometimes by Jamaican musicians (Leroy “Horsemouth” Wallace, Robbie Shakespeare, Dalton Browne, Scully Simms,...), The 18<sup>th</sup> Parallel is responsible for remarkable works recorded in their own Bridge Music Studio in Geneva, Switzerland, with artists such as Oku Onuora (*I’ve Seen*), Micah Shemaiah (*Roots I Vision*), I Kong (*Pass It On* and *A Little Walk* under the name Najavibes), Sylvan White, Samory I, Kumar, Burro Banton, The Silvertones, and more recently Cornell Campbell, Witness, Mr. Williamz and Lone Ark. As one of Switzerland finest reggae studio band, The 18<sup>th</sup> Parallel is highly in demand and will be putting out a lot of new music in the coming years!