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## Gibraltar

### Press Release

Goat Star Books is pleased to announce the publication of its seventh bilingual poetry collection, ***Gibraltar*** by poet and singer-songwriter **Gabriel Moreno**.

Gabriel is currently based in London, but he was born and raised in Gibraltar, a British territory bordering southern Spain and just eight miles from Africa. Both his music and his poetry are rooted in this geographical and cultural location.

But Gabriel has also lived and performed across the world, absorbing influences from music, literature and art everywhere he went. He was previously the longtime curator and host of the legendary Lantern Society folk club, in London, and in 2022 was awarded the title of Cultural Ambassador of Gibraltar. He has published ten poetry books. His latest ones are ***Heart Mortally Wounded by Six strings*** and ***Nights in the Belly of Bohemia***.

We met Gabriel in London some time ago and, as a publishing project specialising in poetry translations to and from English, we naturally gravitated to each other. Gabriel and Gibraltar itself embody the spirit of our project.

Like Gibraltar itself, we aim to act as a bridge between the English and Spanish-speaking cultures. It is felicitous for us that the publication of this book coincides with the signing of the EU-UK agreement that will remove all checks and controls on people and goods circulating between Spain and Gibraltar, restoring the freedoms that were stolen by the misguided Brexit decision.

We are aware that this coincidence turns us into de facto ambassadors of Gibraltar in the world, a role that we embrace wholeheartedly, as it is in keeping with our stated of purpose of using poetry as a means of understanding between peoples.

The book has four sections. The first one, “**The Rock**”, includes Gabriel’s reflections on the subject of his birthplace. That is followed by twenty “**Sonetos de un Llanito**”, an experiment in multiculturalism and multilingualism that we expect may resonate with all readers across the world who switch naturally between English and Spanish. Here, what is in English in the original has been translated into Spanish in the new version, and vice versa.

The third part is a collection of “**New poems**” on different topics published for the first time in this book, while the fourth and last one is comprised of a selection from the books of poetry that Gabriel published while he lived in Spain. They are published for the first time in English.

We believe that the book’s fusion reflects the unstoppable process of globalisation that has been taking place throughout centuries across the world, and which is the essence not only of Gibraltar, but of our human culture as a whole.

All the poems have been translated into English or Spanish by **Rafael Peñas Cruz**, who is also the director of **Goat Star Books**.

The book has received the support of the **Gibraltar Cultural Services**.

