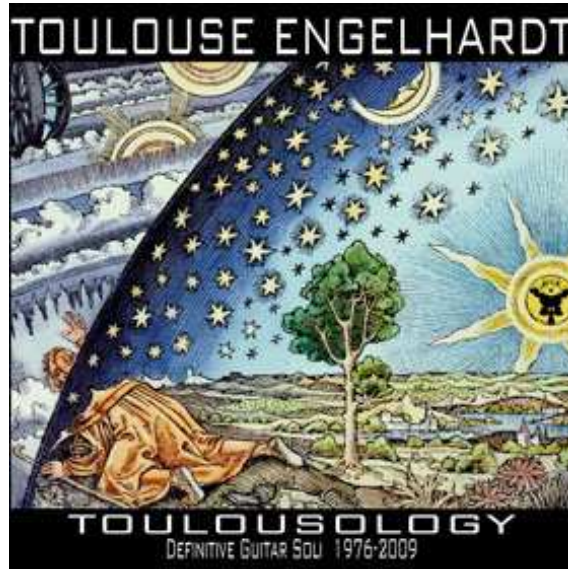


Mannheim Steamroller or **Kitaro** and something much more dour and substantial, and you'll find the something approaching the best of both worlds (so to speak) in *Subterranea*.



Toulouse Engelhardt – *Toulousology: Definitive Guitar Soli 1976-2009*

I'm not a student of "serious" music, so guitar virtuosi outside the rock spectrum often (if not always) escape my notice (I only "discovered" [Wes Montgomery](#) and [Buckethead](#) in the last year or so!). So it's no surprise to me that I had never heard – or heard of – the work of acoustic 12-string guitarist **Toulouse Engelhardt**. He's released eight albums between 1976 and 2011, and recently compiled this career-spanning best-of. The nature of acoustic-based music such as this – built around Engelhardt's finger-style guitar – is that it's pretty damn well timeless. Thus, there's nothing "dated" about the earlier pieces on the album. They all flow together nicely, taking in elements from various styles. "Revelations at Lunada Bay" would sound right at home on *Led Zeppelin III*, for example. Engelhardt synthesizes many styles, no mean feat when you're working with just a guitar.

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