MANEL FORTIA TRIO - DESPERTAR

After spending 3 years in NYC, involved in the high jazz scene and participating in a lot of projects with great musicians, Manel Fortia comes back to his hometown Barcelona and creates his European Jazz Trio. On this project he has two of his favourite musicians and at the same time two of the most outstanding musicians in Europe. The spanish pianist Marco Mezquida (Lee Konitz, Dave Liebman, Perico Sambeat, Silvia Perez Cruz, Chicuelo...) and the french drummer Raphael Pannier (Miguel Zenón, Aaron Goldberg, Steve Wilson, Francois Moutin…).
With this trio, Manel have the perfect team to develop his own compositions and the interaction and complicity is always present in the music.
On 2020 they have recorded the album "Despertar", that will be released in 2021. Here you can find the latest Fortia's compositions based on the experiences he had in New York these last years. The result of that is a beautiful mix of the energic rythms of the city of skycrapers with a mediterranean flavour and some european classical influences.

Manel Fortia is an expressive and melodic European Bassist based between Barcelona and New York with a long career as a performer and composer in jazz and modern music that has led him to play with great musicians such as Dave Liebman, Chris Cheek, Bill McHenry, Eliot Zigmund, Ari Hoenig, Chano Dominguez, Stephane Belmondo, Perico Sambeat, Raynald Colom, Antonio Lizana… at some of the most important International Jazz Festivals. He has also led his own projects and has been recognized with multiple awards. His approach to extended double bass techniques and his creative experimentation combined with a huge melodic sense and deep sound have converted him one of the most unique and original double bass players of the new generation of European Musicians.

Marco Mezquida: piano
Manel Fortia: bass & compositions
Raphael Pannier: drums

MARCO MEZQUIDA

At only 33 years of age, Mezquida shines equally as composer, pianist, improviser, accompanist and bandleader; that he is eclectic and versatile, is to name the obvious. Above all, Marco is a playful and unpredictable artist, who creates a world of his own that is at once inviting and fascinating. Mezquida is creative and resourceful, blending influences of Keith Jarrett, Schubert, Bill Evans, Rachmaninov and Paul Bley. He lets them all in, invites them to play in his music, integrates them into his stream of consciousness.

Mezquida plays in a large variety of constellations including solo piano, accompanied by orchestras, duos and trios. His music crosses genres, including jazz as well as his original approaches to Ravel, Handel or Chopin, flamenco, or popular Latin American music. One of his most successful projects in the last few years has been Chicuelo y Mezquida, a trio that blends jazz and flamenco together.

The list of artists with whom Mezquida has shared the stage and studio is extensive. Among them, renowned figures like Lee Konitz and Bill McHenry. He has played at venues in 24 countries, including Marciac, Budapest Music Center, Conde Duque of Madrid, Jazzaldia, Jazzahead!, Kölner Philharmonie, ORF Auditorium in Vienna, SFJazz and Jazz in the Factory in Sao Paulo. The Association of Jazz Musicians and Modern Music of Catalonia have awarded him “Musician of the Year” four times in five years.

RAPHAEL PANNIER

Hailed as “an exceptionally gifted jazz drummer” by French Newspaper Télérama, Raphael Pannier is a 29 year old french drummer and percussionist currently based between New York City and Paris.
Growing up in both European and American cultures, Raphael developed the rare ability to play many musical styles as a high level. As a result, he has had the chance to work with many music masters such as Steve Wilson, Bob James, Lee Ritenour, Aaron Goldberg, Marcos Valle, Eric Lewis, Lage Lund, Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, Francois Moutin, and more.
In 2019, Raphael recorded his first album as a leader, featuring jazz greats Miguel Zenón (alto saxophone, production), Aaron Goldberg (piano), and François Moutin (upright bass). The album, named "Faune", is produced by the label French Paradox, and was released on September 18th 2020. It is elected "Revelation" by JazzMagazine in France.