

Manel Fortià Trio – DESPERTAR

Manel Fortia (www.manelfortia.com) is a creative and expressive **bassist** and **composer** from Barcelona. He has worked with some awarded musicians such as **Arturo O'Farrill**, **Dave Liebman**, **Chris Cheek**, **Chano Dominguez**, **Raynald Colom**...

He has appeared on more than 50 albums as a leader and as a sideman, including **My Old Flame** in duet with Marco Mezquida, **Estándares** with Chano Dominguez & Antonio Lizana, and **Buleria Brooklyniana** with Albert Marques and Raphaël Pannier. Recent albums as a leader include **Arrels** (2021, Microscopi), the debut recording of his project **Libérica**. This album mixes flamenco, Catalan folk songs and free jazz in a unique and powerful way. His folk-jazz duo album **Fang i Nuvols** (2020, Microscopi) with the talented Catalan singer Magalí Sare, was also critically acclaimed. And his latest album is called **Despertar** (Microscopi, 2022).



Manel Fortià bridges his Mediterranean and Spanish roots with the sounds of modern New York jazz on his trio album **Despertar**. Meticulously composed and produced by Fortià, Despertar presents a musical self-portrait based on a selection of spirited originals, all inspired by his experiences while living in New York City between 2016 and 2020.

"This album is very important to me because it reflects one of the most transcendent moments in my artistic life. I feel that living in NYC changed me tremendously and I grew a lot there," Fortià says. "It is also the first time I recorded a full album featuring all my compositions. That I can share playing them with two of my favorite musicians with whom I have a great connection personally and musically, is like a dream come true."

VIDEO teaser DESPERTAR: <https://youtu.be/Lqg4bjmr-Cc>

AWARDS:

- Premi Enderrock**: «Best Jazz Album 2022»
- Premi Núvol**: «La Ruta del Jazz 2022»
- AllAboutJazz Selection**: «Jazz Revelation 2022»
- Downbeat Selection**: «Latin Jazz Selection 2022»
- 3er Composition Prize SGAE 2024**: «Marco's Dilemma»

«Fortià himself is a bass player's bass player, with a sound to die for and a rhythmic feel that is equally at ease with flamenco and deep gospel.»

London Jazz News

«Fortià is a masterful composer of great breadth and imagination.»

Jazziz Magazine

«Manel Fortia has composed a set of emotional, impressionistic music for this album which is realized wonderfully by his expressive bass playing.»

AllAboutJazz Magazine

«Wonderful interaction and beautiful compositions are highlighted on this recording. I hear the influence of Spain throughout. This is a great trio which will be listened to by serious musicians and enjoyed.»

NEA Jazz Master saxophonist Dave Liebman

«Manel Fortià's bass sound is huge and fluid and his bandmates are almost telepathic in their interaction with it. This is an incredible outing for a young bandleader and should firmly establish Manel as a voice to be heard for years to come.»

Grammy Award-winning pianist Arturo O'Farrill



Photo by: Mireia Miralles

LIVE BAND:

Diego Hervalejo/Antonio Mazzei: piano
Manel Fortià: contrabaix
Raphael Pannier: bateria

LIVE VIDEOS:

CIRCULAR: <https://youtu.be/Lqg4bjmr-Cc>
SAUDADES: <https://youtu.be/eQQk5xUKM70>

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