

# Manel Fortià Trio – DESPERTAR

**Manel Fortia** ([www.manelfortia.com](http://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: <https://youtu.be/Lqg4bjmr-Cc>

Marco Mezquida: piano  
Raphael Pannier: drums

AUDIO & more: [https://bit.ly/ManelFortià\\_Despertar\\_ENG](https://bit.ly/ManelFortià_Despertar_ENG)

*«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

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