

Fanfara Kalashnikov • Balkan Speed Brass

(Romania, Ukraine, Berlin)



Fanfara Kalashnikov, originally from the region of Moldau in North East Romania, is a famous extravaganza of brass music. Since they were children the musicians have been playing at family and village celebrations, including weddings, birthdays and naming ceremonies. They learned from the cradle to play an extraordinary mixture of **speed brass** in the Balkan-Oriental Style, with strong **jazz and funk** influences.



Kalashnikov plays **klezmer, bossa, polka, waltz, flamenco and even mambo** in the Balkan style. Their music is an extremely modern interpretation of centuries-old music traditions; however as most of the band members are under 30 years old, their sound reflects not only the Romani nomad culture, but also a variety of fresh and quirky influences.

Since early 2007, this collection of enthusiastic, exceptional musicians has been constantly delighting audiences in concerts, festivals and private events outside of Romania, blowing upon horns, trumpets and a tuba and delighting audiences at sweat-inducing tempos of well over 200 beats per minute.

Fanfara Kalashnikov goes pop!

The ensemble appeared as a horde of brass playing vampires in the video "Frauen und Männer" by Berlin punk combo **Panda**, they jammed with Mono & Nikitaman and **Rupa & The April Fishes**, worked with Beats Antique, sound artist **Arto Lindsay** and New York ska legend **Vic Ruggiero** (The Slackers), blew the wedding march for Balkan R'n'B queen **Miss Platinum**, and performed in the supporting program for Germany's number one dancehall act, **Seeed**. Recently the youngest of all Brass Balkan Orchestras played a bombastic cover version of the **2Raumwohnung**-single "Wir werden sehen".

One of the most energetic, surprising and exciting Contemporary music projects from Eastern Europe is currently developing some of the hottest, freshest, and wildest brass sounds ever heard. Who wouldn't dance on the tables to these rhythms?

Discography

- € Panda (Single and Video "Frauen und Männer", 2007)
- € 2Raumwohnung (Single "Wir werden sehen", 2009)
- € Vic Ruggiero (Album "Something In My Blindspot", 2008)
- € Dota Kehr (Single "Bis auf den Grund", 2010)

Fanfara Kalashnikov on the Internet:

www.crossculturemusic.de/fanfara_kalashnikov

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voices

"The funkiest brass band I've ever seen." (Ecki Hühdephl, It's M.E.)

"An absolute godsend!" (Sabine Kulau, Festival of Cultures Hamburg)

"Our biggest catch of the year!" (Jürgen Wippich, Street Parade Celle)

"Infectious – Speed Polka and Jazz in its entire naturalness and virtuosity."
(Hessische/Niedersächsische Allgemeine)

"An earthquake!" (Sebastian Maliszewski, Warsaw)

"The Punk music of the Balkans." (Lausitzer Rundschau)

"Full of energy and spirit." (Die Graue Eminenz, Vienna)

"Fiery, melancholy, sensual and sensitive..." (Feminissima)

"Pure zest for life." (Gerd Harthus - Jazz, Folk & Bike)

"Sparkling joy!" (Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung)

"Ultra-hot Jazz-Polkas." (Christian Gampert, Deutschlandfunk)

"The power of this music is astonishing." (www.dickesB.net)

"In addition to the feast for the ears, the two dancers were a treat for the eyes."
(Ibbenbürener Volkszeitung)

"The unique, sensational Balkan Gypsy Bellybutton Brass Band Dance Revue!"
(Pop d'Europe)

"Together with Miss Platnum, they shape Balkan Pop." (wow-europe)

"This music saves lives!" (Paula, Haltestelle Woodstock 2009)

"The most fabulous party of the year!" (Nursel, Hamburg)

"Fuckin good energy!" (Guts, Ibiza)

"The best fanfara ever!" (Pierdiego, Bergamo)

"One has to have seen it...!" (Nicolai Tomás, Poems for Laila)

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musicians

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| € Cristinel Manole (RO) | trumpet |
| € Viktor Skála (UA) | guitar, vocals |
| € Florin Badarau (RO) | alto sax, vocals |
| € Sergiu Nastase (RO) | bass tuba |
| € Rares Zamfir (RO) | baritone horn |
| € Sebastian Zamfir (RO) | baritone horn |
| € Philipp Kullen (D) | drums |

guest artists

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| € Vladimir Karparov (BG) | alto sax |
| € Nikolaos Chassirtzis (GR) | bouzouki, vocals |
| € Lia Pavlidis (D) | tribal belly dance |
| € Monika Humienna (PL) | tribal belly dance, vocals |
| € Sinél Manole (RO) | percussion |
| € Luca Artioli (I) | guitar, vocals |
| € Valentin Butt (RU) | accordion |
| € Vit Pólak (CZ) | trumpet, vocals |

Biographies

Cristinel Manole (RO) – trumpet

Born 1979 in Cozmesi, Romania. Known as one of the best Balkan trumpet players of his generation who easily changes between the genres. Since earliest childhood the "Balkan-Mariachi" was a passionate interpreter of the Balkans, Jazz and Latin. Had his first international concerts debut in 2002 with "Fanfara din Cozmesi" at the Danube festival in Ulm and Cristinel lives and works in Germany since 2007.

Viktor Skála (UA) - guitar, vocals

Born 1977 in Kiev, Ukraine. Guitar Studies at the music school of "R.M.Glijer", at the academy "P.I.Tschajkowski" and at "Hanns Eisler" in Berlin. Since 1997 international appearances with the guitar quartet of the Kiewer philharmonic concert hall. Lives in Berlin since 2001; works and performs as an interpreter of classical music, tango, flamenco, bossa, salsa, jazz and popular music throughout Europe with the most different formations (e.g. Apparatchik). His skillful guitar playing and his unique shaman's song, with grater voice in a Russian-Romanesque fantasy language, builds a bridge from the Balkans to the Andalusian Flamenco and Jamaican Reggaeton.

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Florin Badarau (RO) - alto sax, vocals

Born 1978 in Bacau, Romania. Coming from a musician's family the cheerful soul developed his talent on countless weddings and family parties since earliest childhood. Today the high-speed interpreter and expert for Balkan-grooves with oriental impact belongs to the best in this subject. As a singer Florin reveals crackjaw qualities. Since 2008 he lives in Berlin together with 13 brothers and sisters, brother-in-laws and cousins.

Sergiu Nastase (RO) – bass tuba

Born 1983 in Iasi, Romania. His tuba grunts, sighs, laughs – the man with the horse lungs draws out of the alleged slow instrument sounds that would honour to a voice imitator. The co-founder of Kalashnikov studied baritone horn in the end 90s at the music Academy of C.F.R. in Iasi and taught others to play them. His first international appearances was in 2002 with Kalashnikov in France. In 2004 he switched to the tuba and he lives and works in Germany since 2006. Connects energy, innovation and musicality like no second Balkan Tuba Player does.

Rares (RO) & Sebastian Zamfir (RO) – baritone horns

Born in the 80th in Iasi, Romania. Together with his younger brother Sebastian and his older student Ionel from Cozmesti Rare Zamfir forms the “funkiest rhythm section since the JB Horns”. The Groove machine of Kalashnikov is renowned and admired for their rhythmical accuracy. Rares, who is no Roma, learnt his musicianship in the end of the 90s in the music academy of C.F.R. in Iasi. In 2000 he was one of the co-founders of Kalashnikov and also had the first international concerts in 2002 in France. Since end of 2006 Rares Zamfir lives and works in Germany, Sebastian followed in 2008.

Sinél Manole (RO) – percussion

Born 1978 in Cozmesti, Romania. “Learn something serious – become a musician!” that’s what his parents told him in the beginning of the 90s. In post communist Romania Live-Performer awaited golden times. This has proved to be true ... but in the rest of the continent. First international appearances in 2002 with the Fanfara din Cozmesti at the Danube festival in Ulm. Sinél Manole lives and works in Germany since 2007.

Philipp Kullen (DE) – drums

Born 1979 in Berlin. At a longer stay in Cuba where he performed with the Band “La Tendencia” he got deeply into Latin-American percussion. He studied Congas with Jorge Delgado in New York and Multipercussion, the connection of different instruments and rhythms, with Daniel "Topo" Gioiadi in Berlin. Thanks to his qualification as a percussion player Philipp Kullen is one of a few German drummers who deals intensely with the music of East Europe and is fully accepted by the Romanians.

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Since April 2007, Fanfara Kalashnikov has been travelling over thirty thousand miles and performing about one hundred fifty shows in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria and Poland, at venues and festivals such as:

Berlin, Kaffee Burger
Celle, Jazz Streetparade
Kassel, Documenta
Hamburg, Festival der Kulturen
Berlin, Wuhlheide (supporting Seeed)
Rottweil, Erich-Hauser-Stiftung
Wien, Ostklub
Stuttgart, Wagenhallen
Berlin, Museen Dahlem
Bielefeld, Ravensberger Spinnerei
Gorzów Wielkopolski, Amfiteatr
Dresden, Puschkin
Berlin, Schering AG
Ingolstadt, Theater
Zürich, Stall 6
Magdeburg, Blow Up
Berlin, Tausend
Rosslau, Wasserburg
Grudziadz, City May Holiday
Mülheim, WDR Funkhaus Europa
Berlin, Berlinale
Landshut, Alte Kaserne
Arnhem, Luxor Live
München, Zerwirk
Berlin, Lido
Bielefeld, Weltnacht Festival
Tychy, Gięlda Kwiatowa
Braunschweig, Wilde Töne Festival
Berlin, Philharmonie
Fichtwald, Schloss Stechau
Geneva, Chat Noir
Halle, Theater der Welt
Berlin, Karneval der Kulturen
Hamburg, Mandarin Kasino
Kostrzyn, Przystanek Woodstock
Cham, Klostermühle

Berlin, Weberbank
Meldorf, Frequenzen Festival
Wien, Schutzhaus zur Zukunft
Dresden, Saloppe
Berlin, Pop d'Europe
Greifswald, IkuWo
Zielona Gora, Galeria u Jadzki
Heidelberg, Johannes-Brahms-Saal
Berlin, Haus der Kulturen der Welt
Gronau, Jazzfest
Dranouter, Folkfestival
Jena, Festival de Colores
Berlin, Kesselhaus
Regensburg, Bürgerfest
Lubin, Art Festiwal
Stuttgart, Orient-Express
Berlin, Marathon
Klingendorf, Nuevo Sol Festival
Krotoszyn, Folk Festival
Augsburg, Festival der Kulturen
Berlin, Babylon
Penzlin, Burg
Boleslawiec, Swieto Ceramiki
Wiesbaden, Schlachthof
Berlin, Radialsystem
Marburg, Café Trauma
Syke, Wolfsschlucht
Essen, Zeche Carl
Berlin, Arto Lindsay's Penny Parade
Hamburg, Inas Nacht (NDR)