



## FANFARA KALASHNIKOV | Balkan Speed Brass

*Fanfara Kalashnikov is currently developing some of the hottest, freshest, and wildest brass sounds ever heard. This collection of enthusiastic, exceptional musicians has been constantly delighting audiences outside of Romania, blowing upon horns, trumpets and tuba and delighting audiences at sweat-inducing tempos of well over 200 beats per minute. They played with Miss Platnum, performed for Seeed, 2Raumwohnung or Vic Ruggiero.*

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

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

### further information

web: [Link to agency presentation](#)

### profile

band: 7-10 musicians

instruments: vocals, percussion, drums, baritone horns, trumpet, guitar, alto sax, bass tuba

origin: Rumania, Ukraine, Germany

residence: 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 Platnum**, and performed in the supporting program for Germany's number one dancehall act, **Seed**. 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?

### **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

### **possible guest artists**

Vladimir Karparov (BG)	alto sax
Nikolaos Chassirtzis (GR)	bouzouki, vocals
Sinél Manole (RO)	percussion
Luca Artioli (I)	guitar, vocals
Valentin Butt (RU)	accordion
Vit Pólak (CZ)	trumpet, vocals

### **voices**

- "The funkiest brass band I've ever seen." (Ecki Hühdepohl, 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)

### **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)

## musicians biographies

### **Cristinel Manole (RO) – trumpet**

Born 1979 in Cozmesti, 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 Cozmesti" 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.

### **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 Cozmesi, 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 Cozmesi 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.

### **References (choice)**

Since April 2007, Fanfara Kalashnikov has been traveling 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:

#### **Club**

Celle - Jazz Streetparade • Wismar - Alter Hafen • Arnhem - Luxor • Berlin - Weberbank, Tausend Lido, Philharmonie, Karneval der Kulturen, Pfefferberg, SO36, Kaffee Burger, Wuhlheide, Radialsystem, u.v.m. • Zürich - Stall 6 • Stuttgart - Orient-Express, Wagenhallen • Kalisz - La Strada • Dresden - Saloppe, Eselnest, Puschkin • Slupsk - Filharmonia Bałtycka • Kassel - Schlachthof • Genf - Chat Noir • Bielefeld - Ravensberger Spinnerei • Ingolstadt - Theater • Vila Real - Teatro • Magdeburg - Blow Up • Hamburg - Mandarin Kasino • Bari - La Ghironda • Halle - Theater der Welt • Rosslau - Wasserburg • Wiesbaden - Schlachthof • München - Zerwerk • Marburg - Café Trauma • Wien - Ostklub

#### **Festival**

Zakopane - Highland Folk Festival • Fusion Festival • Osnabrück - Maiwoche • Stuttgart - Sommerfestival der Kulturen • Wacken - Wacken Open Air • Ludwigsfelde - Brückenfest • Radebeul - Weinfest • Bielefeld - Weltnacht Festival • Hamburg - Festival der Kulturen • Rottweil - Erich-Hauser-Stiftung • Grudziadz - City May Holiday • Braunschweig - Wilde Töne Festival • Kostrzyn - Przystanek Woodstock • Meldorf - Frequenzen Festival • Gronau - Jazzfest • Dranouter - Folkfestival • Jena - Festival de Colores • Regensburg - Bürgerfest • Augsburg - Festival der Kulturen • Lubin - Art Festival • Krotoszyn - Folk Festival

#### **Event, Companies, Fairs**

Berlin - Marathon, Pop d'Europe, Berlinale, Schering AG, ALBA, Museen Dahlem • Essen - RWE • Kassel - Documenta • Mülheim - WDR Funkhaus Europa • Fichtwald - Schloss Stechau • Heidelberg - Johannes-Brahms-Saal