

SARA DOWLING QUARTET

A portrait of Sara Dowling, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a magenta top with ruffled cuffs. She is resting her chin on her hand and looking thoughtfully upwards. The background is dark.

"Sara Dowling, the jazz singer of Palestinian roots, shines in Valencia [...] showcasing her powerful vocal range and commanding stage presence in Spain."

Ferran Bono, *EL PAIS*

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Sara Dowling

voz, composición

Sara Dowling is a Palestinian-Irish jazz vocalist, named **Best Vocalist at the 2019 British Jazz Awards** and recognized as one of Europe's leading jazz singers. Because of her mixed heritage, her first musical encounters were with the voices of **Fairuz** and **Umm Kalthoum**, whom her mother adored, and, in stark contrast, the piano of **Erroll Garner**, her father's favorite.

Initially trained as a classical cellist at Chetham's and the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, she performed with the Hallé Orchestra and for Yo-Yo Ma at the age of 18.

All of these musical experiences eventually led her to discover her voice and her passion for improvisation, and she emerged as a powerful, expressive jazz vocalist as well as a composer. Her most important influences are **Betty Carter** and **Sarah Vaughan**.

Rooted in African American jazz and enriched by her Arab heritage and classical training, Dowling moves between standards, Brazilian repertoire and her own compositions. In her performances, these influences come together in a vibrant, personal expression that makes every concert a unique experience.

Sara's exceptional artistic development as a performer, composer and bandleader is reflected in her appearances at jazz festivals in **France, Switzerland, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Mexico, Spain and Hungary**, and in her collaborations with many outstanding artists, including **Michael Kanan, Bruce Barth, Albert Sanz, Andrea Pozza, Terrell Stafford, Jason Rebello, Steve Brown, Ross Stanley** and **Mátyás Gayer**.

Her move to Europe marked a new chapter in her career. During her first year in Valencia, she headlined two of Spain's most prestigious festivals: **San Javier** and **San Sebastián Jazzaldia**.

She has also performed at festivals and concert series including **The British Jazz Festival** in France, **Valladolid Jazz, Cangas Jazz, Fundación J. March, Portón del Jazz, Terrassa Jazz Festival** and many more.

The newspaper **El País International** recently published a feature on Sara in which journalist Ferran Bono wrote: "**Sara Dowling, the jazz singer of Palestinian roots, shines in Valencia [...] showcasing her powerful vocal range and commanding stage presence in Spain.**"

A sought-after educator, Sara has taught at jazz seminars across Spain,

including **Berklee Valencia**, the **León Int. Jazz Seminar, Tenerife Jazz Camp**, Jorge Rossy's **Begues Jazz Camp, Jazz Alhaurín** Málaga and the Int. Jazz Seminar **Fuengirola**.

With **two albums released under her own name**, *From Shadows Into Light* and *Two Sides Of Sara*, her recent recording work includes several collaborations: *At Sundown Time*, with Bruce Barth, and *Latin Connections*, released by Chandos Records with the Aquarela Guitar Quartet, on which she appears as vocalist, cellist, pianist and composer. She has also collaborated on *Roneando* by Perico Sambeat and *Algú Que Em Vullga Cuidar* by the Albert Sanz Big Band. In 2024, Sara launched **Samā**, a duo project with Albert Sanz. Together, they released *The Music of Tom Jobim*, a live recording of their concert at the Fundación Juan March in Madrid.





Albert Sanz

piano

Albert Sanz (Valencia, 1978), a jazz pianist, composer and singer-songwriter, is recognized as one of the most original and talented musicians of his generation. His sound, lyricism, rhythm and inventiveness naturally unite tradition and originality, offering the listener glimpses of light and beauty.

As a composer, he "seems to delight in the unexpected. His melodies move in absolutely charming shapes, with enough harmonic activity to challenge the improviser and attractive tunes to draw in the listener" (All About Jazz NY).

As an accompanist, "Sanz seems happy to dwell in the shadows, to provide others with the most elegant support they could dream of:

delicate comping, consummate punctuation" (Sebastian Scotney, UK Jazz News).

He has toured and/or recorded with the bands of Kurt Rosenwinkel, Silvia Pérez Cruz & Javier Colina, Jorge Rossy, Guillermo Klein, Perico Sambeat, Jorge Pardo and Antonio Serrano, to name a few.



Dario Di Lecce

contrabajo

Dario Di Lecce (1986) began his career as a double bassist in his hometown of Bari (Italy).

In 2012, he decided to move to London, where he became an integral part of the British capital's vibrant music scene. There, Dario stood out as a talented sideman, collaborating both in the studio and live with numerous leading musicians of the London scene.

His path led him in 2022 to Valencia, Spain, where he currently lives. In Valencia, Dario has the privilege of collaborating with some of the best musicians on the Spanish jazz scene, including Albert Sanz, Perico Sambeat, Carlos Gonsalbes and Francisco "Latino" Blanco, among others.

He has also had the honor of sharing the stage and collaborating with a wide range of internationally renowned artists, including Grant Stewart, George Garzone, Michael Kanan, Bruce Barth, Scott Hamilton, Steve Brown, Jorge Rossy and many others.



Enric Fuster

batería

Enric Fuster (1997) is considered one of the most outstanding young talents in Spanish jazz and one of the emerging drummers with the greatest potential of his generation.

Born in Mallorca, he began playing the drums as a self-taught musician.

He has been part of various groups with which he has recorded numerous albums, and has worked with musicians such as Eva Fernández, Mike Gibbs, Toni Vaquer, Perico Sambeat, Bill McHenry, Marco Mezquida, Albert Bover, Ben Solomon, Rita Payés, Alba Armengou, Albert Sanz and Horacio Fumero.

He currently leads his own Quartet, with which he won the First Prize at the Step Jazz Performance Competition 2026; his own Quintet was a finalist in the Juventudes Musicales Nacionales 2025 competition, and Enric co-directs the Big Babo project, which received recognition at the Enderrock Awards.

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