



BABEL SOUND

## Martin Meléndez & Power Trio release their debut album, *I have a dream*

*Influenced by Afro-Cuban rhythms, blues and neo-soul, the musicians take their listeners on a journey through jazz, referring to different cultures, such as Chinese, Cuban and Venezuelan.*

The Power Trio is a special one: it departs from the norm of jazz ensembles because, instead of a double bass, it includes the vibrant sound of a cello, which, in this case, is played by Martín Meléndez. This combination leads the audience to transit through fusions with diverse genres, with roots in diametrically opposed points of the planet.

Meléndez was born in Moscow in the early 1980s, raised in Havana and for almost two decades, based in Barcelona. That is partly because of the fusion that reflects his music. But also because of his knowledge of genres: of course, Afro-Cuban rhythms, jazz, flamenco, salsa, Middle Eastern music, jazz, gypsy jazz.

And all those fusions and conversations between cultures are captured in the Martín Meléndez & Power Trio's debut album, *I have a dream* (NarRator Records). "The album is a journey and a dream. Musically, it's a jazz of dreams", the cellist explains. And it is precisely a travel because it invites the audience to the world evoking different places. *Bolita* is a song that reminds China. "I was working there for a long time, two years ago. And the pentatonic always stayed with me. And we made this song, which is inspired by the concept applied to girls who are fat, they are called *Bolitas*. The song has a little bit of oriental, Afro-Cuban music," the artist says. The tour continues in America with two more songs: a bolero dedicated to the Venezuelan people, which is performed by the trio and an orchestra of Venezuelan musicians. And another, dedicated to Meléndez's Cuban grandmother, who was a storyteller, a selling thing on the street.

Martín Meléndez & Power Trio was formed in December 2018. The musicians met when they collaborated on *Elephant tiny obsessions*, a project that fuses Bantu culture with jazz, funk and electronics. Meléndez already had the idea of making his own music and when he met his colleagues, he invited them to participate.

Previously, the cellist has collaborated with important musicians such as Pablo Milanés, Yusa, Chano Domínguez, Macaco; and has been part of Ópera y Flamenco, Flamenco Hoy, by Carlos Saura, AupaQuartet, Traza Quartet, among others.



BABEL SOUND

## ABOUT MARTÍN MELÉNDEZ

Martín Meléndez was born in 1982 in Moscow, in the former Soviet Union, when his Cuban parents were studying there. Within a year he went to live in Havana, Cuba, where he stayed until after having studied music, especially the cello, at the Amadeo Conservatory and the Higher Institute of Art. He now lives in Barcelona, the city from which he develops his artistic work, strongly influenced by Afro-Cuban music.

During his career he has worked in various genres, including flamenco, salsa, Middle Eastern music, jazz, gypsy jazz and more. He has participated in projects such as AupaQuartet, Traza Quartet, Cordes del Món, among others. But since late 2018, he decided to embark on a new dream: his own trio, which, unlike jazz classics, includes drums, piano and cello. Thus, the Martín Meléndez & Power Trio is also formed by Lucía Fumero (keyboard) and Gabriel González (drums), with whom he recorded the first album of this project.

The musician has collaborated and shared the stage with important figures of the music such as Pablo Milanés, Yusa, Chano Domínguez, Macaco, to name but a few. And his music has reached different points of the globe: Canada, Australia, Chile, Turkey, Russia, China, Argentina, Germany and even more.

Together with the Power Trio, Martin Meléndez releases I have a dream (NarRator Records) in 2021, an album that will once again showcase his mastery of jazz and his other influences.