



# GABRIELA MARTINA

## MUSICIANS' BIOGRAPHIES

### *live band*

**Gabriela Martina** - voice

**Alex Bailey** - drums

**Kyle Miles** - acoustic & electric bass

**Jussi Reijonen** - fretted & fretless guitar

**Jiri Nedoma** - piano & keyboards

### *guest musicians*

**Tareq Rantisi** - percussion

**Andrew Halchak** - soprano saxophone

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## LIVE BAND

**GABRIELA MARTINA** (Switzerland) - voice



Born in Lucerne, Switzerland, **Gabriela Martina** spent her childhood in a bucolic idyll, amidst a family dairy farm surrounded by orchards. The third of four children in a tight-knit working class family, she grew up in a highly musical environment. At the age of five, she discovered her passion for singing while yodeling with her family's traditional Swiss group.

Thriving during her two years at **Berklee College of Music**, she had the opportunity to perform and collaborate with heavyweights like **Meshell Ndegeocello**, **Jack DeJohnette**, and **Angelique Kidjo**. She recorded with veteran drummer **J.R. Robinson** and performed at **2009 Montreux Jazz Festival** with guitarist **Lee Ritenour's** band as a semi-finalist in the **Shure Voice Competition**.

More than a singer/songwriter, Martina is also a savvy bandleader who has attracted a core band featuring some of Boston's finest players. A working ensemble for about four years, her band is built upon the supple rhythmic support of **drummer Alex Bailey**, who forms a potent rhythm section tandem with another rising young Boston star and recent Berklee grad **Kyle Miles on acoustic and electric bass**, the brilliant Czech-born **pianist Jiri Nedoma**, and internationally raised Finnish **guitarist Jussi Reijonen**.

Martina released a critically hailed **EP in 2010, Curiosity**, which included her original song "**Ain't Nobody**", a finalist in the **ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composer Awards 2012**. Performing around US East Coast and beyond, she honed her original repertoire with her band at clubs around the region.

In the end Martina isn't that concerned about whether people call her a jazz singer, but she's not motivated to embrace the label for herself. As a category jazz may not be a perfect fit, but with her strikingly original sound and potent improvisational imagination, Martina embodies the restless quest at the music's center. Her upcoming album **No White Shoes** represents a major step in the singer's sojourn as a 21<sup>st</sup> century musician exploring an array of influences, styles and issues, a journey that's intoxicating and utterly unpredictable.

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## ALEX BAILEY (United States) - drums



Born in 1987 in Kansas City, **Alex Bailey** began playing drums at the tender age of 5. Shortly afterwards, Alex began playing the electric bass, following the foot steps of his older brother, (producer and bassist Timothy Bailey, Jr.). During his time at high school, Alex earned the highest grades in his many music classes as well as being a participant in the all city and all state jazz bands of the state of Kansas. Alex holds the record of being in those bands for the entire 3 years students are allowed to audition. In 2005, Mr. Bailey auditioned and was accepted to be a part of the **2006 Gibson/Baldwin Grammy High School Jazz ensemble**.

Recently, Alex Bailey completed his college studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston, where his majors were Performance with an emphasis on the drumset, and Professional Music with an emphasis on Music Business.

With an extensive resume that includes **Kirk Whalum, Oscar Peterson, Jack DeJohnette, Alex Han, JoAnn Condry** (formerly Rosario), **Ashmont Hill, David 'Fuze' Fiuczynski**, along with many, many others, Mr. Bailey continues to build his resume working with artists like **Chiddy Bang, Gerald Albright, Phil Perry, Elan Trotman, Felix Brown, Gabriela Martina**, along with many others. Alex Bailey is currently holding down the drum chair for vocalist **Judith Hill**.

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## KYLE MILES (United States) - acoustic & electric bass



**Kyle Miles** is an electric and acoustic bassist hailing from Boston, MA. He began his life as a student of music early on, and has since been honing his skills throughout the years with education and experiences. As a recent graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, Kyle has been successfully working as a professional freelance bassist.

Throughout his career, he's had the honor of sharing the bandstand with a number of high caliber artists, among whom include: **Phillip Bailey, Kevin Eubanks, Terri Lynne Carrington, Angelique Kidjo, Patrice Rushen, Marcus Miller, David Gilmore, Greg Osby, Darren Barrett, Kenwood Dennard, Roy Hargrove, James Carter, Mike Clark, Charles Haynes, Jeff Lockhart, Louis Cato, Teddy Pendergrass**, and more.

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## JUSSI REIJONEN (Finland) - fretted & fretless guitar



Born in Rovaniemi, a small town on the Arctic Circle in northern Finland, **Jussi Reijonen** truly is the product of a world with few frontiers. Having grown up moving back and forth between Finnish Lapland, the Middle East, and East Africa, Jussi has spent his life soaking up the sounds, scents and shades of Nordic, Middle Eastern, African, and now American culture, all reflected in his playing. After several years working as a freelance musician with numerous front row artists on the Finnish music scene, Jussi put his work in Finland on hold in 2008, and relocated to Boston MA, USA.

During his time in the US - including receiving degrees from the renowned Berklee College of Music and New England Conservatory - he has had the honor of performing with the likes of **Jack deJohnette, David Fiuczynski, Pepe de Lucía, Simon Shaheen, Bassam Saba** and many other artists. He has performed extensively internationally, playing in **Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Germany, France, the United States, and Lebanon**. Jussi recently released his critically-acclaimed debut album *un*, and currently leads his own quartet *Jussi Reijonen: un* in addition to working with **Gabriela Martina, Sissy Castrogiovanni**, and various others. He resides Boston MA, and performs regularly around the East Coast.

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## JIRI NEDOMA (Czech Republic) - piano & keyboards



**Jiri Nedoma** is one of the most talented and versatile piano players of his generation. During his music studies he became a member of the Czech Radio Bigband and performed with many jazz and popular artists across Europe. After receiving considerable scholarships from Berklee College of Music's World Scholarship Tour, Jiri left Prague and made his way to Boston where he earned his Bachelor's degree in piano performance. Jiri holds a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory where he received a presidential scholarship. He has studied with such jazz greats as **Fred Hersch, Jerry Bergonzi, Joanne Brackeen, Jason Moran** and **Phil Wilson**.

He has recorded numerous albums as a sideman, and collaborated with the **Grammy Award Winner Terri Lyne Carrington** and Berklee faculty **Gabrielle Goodman, Donna McElroy, Steve Santoro, Jeannie Gagne, Nadia Washington** and others. His recording with the Polish/Cuban vocalist **Yvonne Sanchez** entitled "My Garden" was nominated for the "**Album Of The Year 2008**" in the Czech Republic. Jiri also works as an accompanist at the Berklee College of Music.

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## GUEST MUSICIANS

### TAREQ RANTISI (Palestine) - percussion



**Tareq Rantisi** was born in Jerusalem, Palestine. Self-taught, he began his career playing Middle-Eastern percussion at the age of 12 and has performed in concerts and music festivals throughout the Arab world and Europe. Tareq had already shared the stage with some of the most distinguished musicians and associations in the region, including **Kudsi Erguner, Manfred Leuchter, Ilham Al Madfai, Edward Said National Conservatory, the Popular Arts Center and Alkamandjati Association.** In 2008, Tareq received the Al-Qattan Foundation Music Scholarship to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music where he had the pleasure to study with numerous legendary musicians and educators: **Jamey Haddad, Joe Galeota, Manuel “Egui” Castrillo, Ernesto Diaz, and Mikael Ringquist.**

Since his arrival in the United States, Tareq has performed with some of the biggest names in modern music, including **Jack deJohnette, Steve Smith, Paul Winter, Simon Shaheen, Aaron Goldberg, Srinivas Krishnan, Victor Mendoza, Husnu Senlendirici, Eguie Castrillo, Bertram Lehmann, Bassam Saba, Mehmet Ali Sanlikol, Bruno Råberg, Javier Limón, Pepe de Lucía, Glen Velez** and many other important virtuosic musicians, composers and ensembles. Alongside his career as a performer, Tareq has developed a body of educational work, offering master classes, workshops and private lessons throughout the world in collaboration with **Arabic Music Retreat, Brandeis University, The Center for Arabic Culture, NAFDA, The Gaza Music School, Qattan Foundation, Al Kamandjâti Association, Kufiyyeh Center of Music, and the Yamaha Music School.**

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### ANDREW HALCHAK (United States) - soprano saxophone



Saxophonist, Composer and Multi-Instrumentalist Andrew Halchak was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona. He was immersed in a multitude of vibrant southwestern music communities including bluegrass, country/western and afro-beat. It was in Tucson that he began studying the traditions of jazz and other improvised music.

In 2010 Andrew received his Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Performance from Berklee College of Music. His teachers and mentors included **George Garzone, Greg Osby, Joe Lovano** and **Shannon LeClaire.** Halchak is currently studying at The New England Conservatory of music for his anticipated Master of Music degree in Jazz Studies, with a focus on the research of microtonal music. Studies with **Jerry Bergonzi, Donny McCaslin, Jason Moran, Miguel Zenon, and Fred Hersch.**

Halchak has been a featured artist at the **Panama Jazz Festival, the NaguaNagua Jazz Festival** in Venezuela, **the Jazz a Vienne Festival** in France, **the Montreux Jazz festival** in Switzerland, **the Vitoria Jazz Festival** in Spain. Recent performances with **Jason Moran** and **The Big Band Wagon, Carla Bley, Steve Swallow, Luis Bonilla, George Garzone, The Rebirth Brass Band.** Andrew currently lives and works in New York.