



## MARTINA LUPI

voice, flutes, musical instruments from  
around the world

## FABIO GAGLIARDI

didgeridoo, percussion, harmonic singing

## MATTIA LOTINI

guitar, bouzouki

## STEFANO VESTRINI

drums, percussion

CONTRAST





**Contrast** is the latest work by Tupa Ruja, released on February 25, 2025 for Filibusta Records.

An album where each song has an expressive texture substantially different from the others, but is united by the intent to combine suggestions, intense emotions, with sound nuances of various kinds, to make languages, rhythms and musical characteristics of different cultures, geographically distant from each other, coexist.

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An existential journey, which lays the foundations in an autobiographical research into feeling, in which the author and composer Martina Lupi outlines the expressive traits of her eclectic and multifaceted personality. The expressive form is then made possible by the intertwining and perfect fit with the musicians of the group: Fabio Gagliardi (founder of the group together with Martina Lupi) on didgeridoo and percussion; Stefano Vestrini on drums and percussion and Mattia Lotini on guitars.

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The album's rich sound and expressiveness was contributed by guests of very high artistic importance: Javier Girotto on soprano sax and quena, Alessandro Gwis on piano, Marco Siniscalco on bass and Michele Gazich on violin.





Tupa  
Ruja

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## About “Contrast”

Guido Festinese – Alias – **IL MANIFESTO** “Notes without passports, which uncover the rancorous hypocrisy of borders and fan a **total geographical-emotional fire**”.

Tonino Merolli – **RARO** “Contrast is the title of the **new and beautiful album** of the ethnic project Tupa Ruja that contrasts carnival, understood as a life drive, with death...**The work stands out for its variety of sound themes**”.

Alceste Ayroldi – **MUSICA JAZZ** “A project that brings together different musical idioms...**The lyrics are always very beautiful, fascinating**”.

Ghigli Di Paola - Battiti – **RADIO 3** “Contrast is a sound place where expressions, languages, rhythms and music from different cultures, even geographically distant from each other, meet.”.

Renzo Nelli – **TOM TOM ROCK** “The whole has an exquisitely Mediterranean flavour, despite the presence of instruments characteristic of other traditions, such as the Celtic tin whistle played in some songs by Martina Lupi and above all the Aboriginal didgeridoo, an almost omnipresent sort of wind percussion that Fabio Gagliardi manages on more than one occasion to transform into an almost melodic instrument...**A wide-ranging project**”.



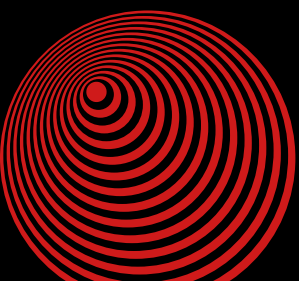
Fabio Alcini – **TRACKS** “Coherent and homogeneous project in sounds...Album with a high level of awareness and sound knowledge, especially regarding the effortless integration of sounds from various parts of the world, in a coherent whole and rich in interesting flavors”.

Tommaso Liorni – **EXTRA MUSIC MAGAZINE** “A perfect blend where languages, rhythms, suggestions and musical characteristics of different cultures, geographically distant from each other, meet”.

Francesco Vergovich – Un giorno speciale - **RADIO RADIO** “A music without borders and at the same time very identifying”.

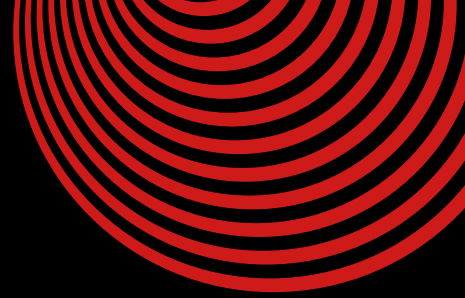
Saverio Simonelli - Terza pagina – **TV2000** “Their music is full of suggestions, enchantments and traditions”.

Ciro De Rosa – **BLOGFOOLK MAGAZINE** “An album that collects autobiographical and existential sensations, gathering them in a plurality of sound expressions, a refined and passionate path of research and artistic life”.





# Tupa Ruja



The Tupa Ruja concert is a true “journey through sounds” that crosses times and cultures, bringing together instruments from different places and worlds, such as the didgeridoo (the traditional Australian Aboriginal instrument) and percussion from different parts of the world, which blend with multiple expressions of the voice, from improvisation to harmonic singing (typical of Mongolian culture), to original songs that rediscover languages and dialects belonging to Mediterranean cultures and with the intense and at the same time delicate sounds of the bouzouki and the guitar.







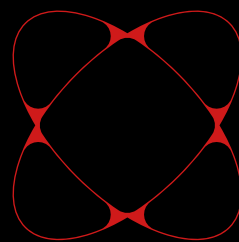
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# BIO



Tupa Ruja was born as a duo in 2006 from the desire of both the singer, songwriter and composer Martina Lupi and the multi-instrumentalist Fabio Gagliardi to give life to an experimental musical genre, but one that was rooted in ancient sounds.

Over the years they have brought their music to important stages around Italy and Europe: Auditorium Parco della Musica (Rome), (s)Nodi - Festival di Musica Inconsueta (Bologna), Australisches Sonntag - Didgeridoo Festival (Berlin) - Ethnos Festival (Naples), Accademia Filarmonica Romana, Ethno Jazz Night - Cavea dell'Auditorium (Rome), Festival della Musica Etnica di Civitavecchia, Wine Festival (Skopje), Portugal Tour - 2° Feira Internacional Património (Elvas) – Onda Jazz (Lisbona) – Centro de Artes e Espectáculos (Sever Do Vouga) – Cine Teatro de Condeixa (Condeixa A Nova), Casa del Jazz (Roma), Didjin'oz Festival – Festival internazionale del didgeridoo (Forlimpopoli), Folkest (Spilimbergo)...and many others. From 2017 to 2021 they collaborated with pianist Alessandro Gwis, with whom they played throughout Italy and made an album.

In 2022 with the new quartet formation, they participated in the Alberto Cesa Award, winning the first prize and a tour financed by the Nuovo IMAIE.

Five albums under his belt:

Terra Mi Chiami (2007), Suono Dunque Sono (2011), Impronte - Live (2014), In Questo Viaggio (2019), Contrast (2025)

Awards and recognitions:

“Mediterraneo – Rive sonore” Award on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Civitavecchia Ethnic Music Festival (2012)

“Rassegna di Musica Diversa – Omaggio a Demetrio Stratos” Award (2015)

“Alberto Cesa Award” – Folkest 2022



Tupa  
Ruja

# SOCIAL

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