



**Ofir Shwartz** Piano  
**Gasper Bertoncej** Drums  
**Gal Shaya** Double bass

# Ofir Shwartz Trio

The Ofir Shwartz Trio is a progressive piano trio, performing music composed by the pianist Ofir Shwartz. The music of the trio is written and played with a unique approach; using the sounds and inspiration of European Jazz with the influences of modern harmony. From classical music and feel, through rock up to drum n'base vibes.

The Trio was founded in 2006 by Ofir Shwartz in order to bring to life Ofir's compositions and vision. During these years the Ofir Shwartz Trio got great reputation as they performed in many International Jazz Festivals and rewarded with great feedbacks by the media and the crowd. Their debut album "Earlier in Time" (sHmoo Records) was released in 2010 and received great reviews. The album is distributed in USA, Japan and Israel. Their second album "Shades of Fish" will be released in mid 2013 accompanied by a world tour.

The Ofir Shwartz Trio consists of three talented international musicians:

## **Ofir Shwartz (Israel) - Piano**

His excellent playing captures the listener's ears with colorful melodies and harmonies, along with his unique rhythmic structures

## **Gasper Bertoncej (Slovenia) – Drums**

With his international vast experience gasper is a master of brushes as well as a very melodic drummer and extremely versatile.

## **Gal Shaya (Israel / N.Y.) – Double Bass**

An emerging talent among modern jazz fans, a catchy bass player with fantastic groove along with terrific soloing.





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For the second time Ofir Shwartz has gathered his fantastic trio in order to record a new album, resulting the inspiring release - "Shades of Fish" (Hevhetia Records, 2013).

Since the release of the Trio's debut album - "Earlier in Time" (sHmoo Records 2010), the trio went through a journey seeking new sound and inspiration to create an album which will bring new spirit to modern jazz.

This time the trio takes the listener to a very different musical experience, adding Heavy Rock-ish style into their repertoire without forgetting their gentle melodic origins. This album consists of Piano recorded with heavy Distortion side by side with mellow ballads and flowing melodic tunes.

## Shades of Fish - Track List:

Caelum	5:38
Chicko	5:26
When it Ends	6:03
Germany	4:46
Folk Song	7:36
Industrial City	6:08
Shades of Fish	3:48
It's Wet Outside	7:51
Last Journey	6:33
Industrial City Vol 2	6:06
<b>Total</b>	<b>59:48</b>







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*“The trio gallops at a swift pace from the interesting bass lines into fluid trio music and fascinating piano improvisations. A modern piano trio that remembers how to swing... Catchy and energetic music that should appeal to pretty much everyone...”*

**The Jazz Times**

*“We had the privilege attending a concert of the next generations of world jazz. Ofir Shwartz Trio has left us with no doubts - jazz music has much more to tell..”*

**Press review of a Jazz festival concert**

*“The ofir Shwartz trio swung by the University of Toronto’s music department for a midday concert on their way to a music festival in Edmonton earlier this month. It was a dreary, cold winter day but their music evoked the ambience of a jazz café somewhere in sunny Israel”*

**Joanne Hill – Jewish Tribune**

*“Ofir Shwartz's background in jazz and fusion can be clearly heard, in the stellar keyboard virtuosity displayed here. He gives a rather new flavor, to a genre that's been around awhile, through the brilliant addition of some more electronic elements. He shows that you can teach an old genre some new tricks, and does it ever have a payoff.”*

**Wonderous Stories Jazz Blog**





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*“From the very first track Shwartz's attractively melodic and Eastern-European flavored jazz writing is apparent, and the history of piano-led groups (think Keith Jarrett, Bobo Stenson, and Rainer Bruninghaus) comes out in "Easy Steps" and "Earlier in Time". With the addition of colored touch on the Drums of Elad Aizikowitch and the stable but yet variant double-bass playing of Amitai Ladin, "Hurricane" is created to swap off the listener. After the energetic but yet gentle "Meaning of Life", you end up with a deep "Piano Suite" which reminds you that this is a great piano album you're holding now.”*

**Amazon – editor review**

*"McCartney's "Here There and Everywhere" is wonderfully performed by Ofir Shwartz in his excellent new album "Earlier in Time". It starts with beautiful playing of the original melody, and evolves to a cruise in a new musical landscape of Shwartz's unexpected stream of consciousness. Moreover, this tune acts as a rich appetizer that opens the appetite for a delicious tasting meal which is being offered by Shwartz in his debut album.*

*The album, as any debut of a young musician, shows Shwartz's great abilities as a composer, pianist and especially as a charismatic leader of a trio. I would like to get more albums from Ofir Shwartz."*

**Asher Keshner, Yediot Acharonot**

*“It's hard to imagine how behind this silent looking man, hides a wild jazz musician which performs in front of thousands of hypnotized people.. “*

**Press Concert review**





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*“I found listening to this album a heartwarming experience for several reasons; the fact that three young Israeli musicians are capable of playing with such elegance, eloquence and maturity is truly astounding. Combined with the depth of the pianist's compositions, which are mostly lyrical and introvert, the overall impression is deeply moving. The music is much closer to European Jazz than to its American roots, reminiscent of Nordic and East European schools of Jazz composition. Mostly quite precise and well organized; the music sometimes glides into freely improvised passages, which albeit being brief, put it in an entirely new context. The rhythm section gives a perfectly solid support to the soloist, filling in the blanks and complimenting his performances without being intrusive. The interplay between the three musicians is perfectly balanced and respectful, which is a basis of every great piano trio. Shwartz isn't trying to be overtly virtuosic in his performance, preferring subtlety and subtext to flashy, but meaningless glissandos and arpeggios. Every keystroke is precisely where it belongs, both musically and rhythmically, which is of course the way good music is supposed to be. Beautifully recorded, with a clear and warm resonance and perfect sonic balance between the instruments, this is an album every Jazz connoisseur should enjoy in full. The fact that it comes from our petite country is definitely a source of pride and joy for people like me, who care about our culture. Wholeheartedly recommended!”*

**Adam Baruch - Jazzis.com**

*“A melodic piano trio, well balanced and fluid solos...”*

**All about Jazz - Editor's comments**