The Formentera Office of Culture reports that at 8.30pm this Saturday, the Sala de Cultura (Cinema) will be the scene of a free concert for International Women's Day. The trio of Catalan singer-songwriters made up of Sílvia Comes, Meritxell Gené and Ivette Nadal form a united behind feminist songs about freedom and equality (the group's name, Les Kol·lontai, is a nod to the Soviet feminist and politician Alessandra Kol·lontai). The band has played to Catalan-speaking crowds since 2017 to promote their album *Cançons Violeta*.

Les Kol·lontai's 90-minute performance on 7 March is the second of two very special Barnasants concerts scheduled to take place on Formentera this year. The first was Marina Rossell — the unmistakable, saccharine voice of the new popular Catalan musical tradition whose emotion-heavy performance brought down the packed cinema on 1 February in Sant Francesc.

For 25 years, Barnasants has made eclectically-sourced cultural initiatives its stock in trade, building a reputation across the European continent for top-quality independent music. After a renewal of a collaborative agreement between festival organisers and the island government, 2020 marks the festival's second year bringing concerts to the island.

Cultural exchange

The pact between Barnasants and the Consell de Formentera extends beyond Barnasants concerts on Formentera to invest in promoting local Formentera acts off the island. A case in point were thirty-year music scene veterans, Aires formenterencs, who plugged their latest record to a crowd of Barnasants festivalgoers at Barcelona's Centre Artesà Tradicionàrius (CAT) on Sunday 16 February performing. And, hometown singer-songwriter Maria José Cardona, will follow up her 2019 Barnasants date at the Harlem Jazz Club with two performances this weekend on Menorca. She'll be at Ciutadella's Espai Sant Josep at 7.30pm on Friday 6 March and Saturday at Es Nou Bar from 10.30pm. Both shows are free.

Workshop at the school of music

Les Kol·lontai's Ivette Nadal will be at the Formentera Escola de Música Friday afternoon for a clinic on the voice as an instrument of music. Culture chief Susana Labrador acknowledged she was "just as thrilled about seeing indy Catalan music's crème de la crème back on the island as

I am about sharing our hometown sounds with the rest of the islands and other corners of the country. It's a great way to promote this aspect of our culture."

4 March 2020
Department of Communications
Consell de Formentera