Fanfare Ciocărlia

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
Welcome to the Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art’s performing arts series brings together thoughtful, fascinating, and beautiful experiences, comprising a concert calendar notable for its boundless multiplicity. This year we look forward to visits from old friends and new, bringing us music from around the globe and spanning many centuries. Here is the place where performance is intended to explore connections of cultures, the heart, the human spirit.

In the galleries

Pharaoh: King of Ancient Egypt
Through June 12

Silent Poetry: Masterworks of Chinese Painting
Through April 24

Pyramids & Sphinxes
Through May 24

Ji Yun-Fei: Last Days of Village Wen
Through July 31

Converging Lines: Eva Hesse and Sol LeWitt
Through July 31

Jon Pestoni: Some Years
April 23–July 10

The Flowering of the Botanical Print
Through July 3

Please turn off all electronic devices before entering the performance hall.

Photography and audio/video recording in the performance hall are prohibited.

Fanfare Ciocărlia
Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:30 p.m.
Gartner Auditorium, the Cleveland Museum of Art

PROGRAM

Toba Mare
Sirba Monastirea
Ciobanasul Si Suta
Lume Lume
Swing Sagarese
C’est La Vie — Hora Jideneasca
Caravana
Absinthe-Minded Gypsy
Mista Lobaloba
Bubamara
Nicoleta — La Rayah
Manea Cu Voce
Asphalt Tango
Born to be Wild
Iag Bari — Presentare

ENSEMBLE

Trifan Costică  trumpet, vocals
Bulgaru Paul Marian  trumpet
Lazar Radulescu  trumpet, vocals
Ivancea Oprica  soprano clarinet, alto saxophon
Ivancea Dan Ionel  alto saxophon
Cantea Constantin  tuba
Trifan Monel  tuba
Calin Constantin  tenor horn, vocals, dances
Ivancea Laurentiu  baritone horn
Ursu Costel  large drum
Ionita Nicolae  percussion
Trifan Craciun  trumpet
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Fanfare Ciocărlia

Forget “Balkan Beats,” forget the hype, here comes the real deal: Fanfare Ciocărlia is one of the world’s greatest live bands—its energy and ingenuity have won it fans from Melbourne to Memphis, Tokyo to Toulouse. Having learnt their craft at the feet of their fathers and grandfathers Fanfare’s members proudly approach every concert as a challenge to both entertain audiences and keep the true spirit of Gypsy music alive.

When Fanfare Ciocărlia—the brass orchestra from the “hidden” village of Zece Prăjini in north-eastern Romania—takes the stage, the crowd receive 100% Gypsy music. Zece Prăjini’s isolation—situated in a misty valley, the valley’s dirt roads are occupied by flocks of geese and horse and carts; here live eighty Gypsy farming families who live a traditional rural lifestyle dictated by nature’s seasons—meant that under communism the village remained hidden from the outside world. Somehow the ancient Ottoman tradition of brass bands accompanying armies, weddings and funerals continued to exist here when it had long died out in the rest of Romania. And when Henry Ernst, a young German music fan, wandered into the village in 1996 he found a living tradition that he knew the world would embrace. And so they did: Fanfare Ciocărlia—whose name translates as “lark’s song”—conquered Europe in 1997, its furious live blast appealing to punks and headbangers, jazz and funk fans, world music aficionados and those who simply love music that sounds absolutely unique. Even the classical world embraced Fanfare Ciocărlia and they have since performed at many prestigious philharmonic halls. The Romanian’s breakneck speed, technical chops, ripping rhythms, and sweet and sour horns are quite different from any other brass band on earth. Everyone who heard Fanfare Ciocărlia agreed on one thing—no brass band had ever played as fast as this before. Make that two things: no brass band had ever sounded like this before! Fanfare Ciocărlia went on to conquer the USA, Japan, and Australia. The Gypsies may only have spoken their local Romany dialect but their music spoke an international language and audiences responded to their fierce Balkan funk by turning concerts into parties. What Fanfare Ciocărlia played was something new. The Times of London described it as “a heavy, heavy monster sound” and Fanfare’s recordings have taken the band’s eerie Balkan groove into dance clubs across the planet. Along the way Fanfare Ciocărlia has been celebrated by critics and championed in all kinds of media: it stars in several films (Ralf Marschalleck’s Iag Bari follows the band on tour across Europe while Fatih Akin’s Head On has them ripping up Hamburg’s clubs), owns the cover of Princes Amongst Men (Garth Cartwright’s acclaimed book on Romany musical culture), was commissioned by Sacha Baron Cohen to cut biker anthem “Born to be Wild” for the Borat soundtrack, and has been sampled and covered, championed and emulated, by countless DJs, bands, and Gypsy orchestras. Their radical reinterpretations of popular Western standards—including the James Bond theme and Duke Ellington’s “Caravan”—show how the Romanian orchestra effortlessly “Gypsifies” any music it gets its horns on.

Besides making great music Fanfare Ciocărlia has twice developed brilliant musical theatre—Gypsy Queens & Kings (which brought together many of Europe’s greatest Romany musicians) and Balkan Brass Battle (which saw the Romanians face a Serbian orchestra) both toured the world to great acclaim. Fanfare Ciocărlia has released eight albums, several of which have topped the European World Music charts. Its DVD Brass on Fire was acclaimed by Songlines magazine as “setting a new standard for music documentaries.” The band has played over 1,200 concerts and its members like to consider themselves “the hardest working band in the blow biz.”

CREDITS

Fanfare Ciocărlia appears by arrangement with Asphalt Tango Production. www.asphalt-tango.de

This tour is supported in part by the globalFEST Touring Fund
UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Amir ElSaffar’s Rivers of Sound
Friday, April 15, 7:30 p.m., Gartner Auditorium

New York–based trumpeter, santur player, vocalist, and composer Amir ElSaffar presents Rivers of Sound, his new ensemble of 17 musicians from the Middle East and the U.S. Described as “uniquely poised to reconcile jazz and Arabic music without doing either harm” (The Wire), ElSaffar has distinguished himself with a mastery of diverse musical traditions, combining Middle Eastern musical languages with jazz and other styles. $33–$45, CMA members $30–40. cma.org/elsaffar

Tarek Abdallah & Adel Shams El-Din
Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., Gartner Auditorium

An evening of classical Egyptian music for oud and riqq (Arabic tambourine). Born in Alexandria in 1975, Abdallah draws his inspiration from the golden age of the art of Egyptian oud solo (1910–30). El-Din’s exceptional technique, exquisite sound, and vast knowledge of rhythmic cycles, from Middle Eastern music to jazz and flamenco, make him the most sought-after riqq player on the international stage today. $33–$45, CMA members $30–40. cma.org/abdallah

MIX: Riff featuring Hot Club of Detroit
Friday, May 6, 2016, 5:00–10:00 p.m., Atrium

Specializing in the Gypsy jazz sound made famous by guitarist Django Reinhardt, the Hot Club of Detroit was formed by guitarist Evan Perri while he was attending Wayne State University. The group quickly attracted a following at area bars and clubs and signed with Mack Avenue Records. $8 in advance, $10 at the door; free to CMA members

This event is presented by the 37th annual Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, June 23–25, at Playhouse Square. Guest artists include Al Jarreau, Diana Krall, Leon Russell, Dr. John, Dominick Farinacci, Chick Corea, Terence Blanchard, Big Sam’s Funky Nation, David Sanborn, Cubanismo, and more.

Performing Arts

cma.org/performingarts #CMAperformingarts

Ellen Fullman
Thursday–Saturday,
September 24–26, 7:30

Ustatshakirt Plus
Sunday, October 4, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, October 7, 6:00

Merima Kjučo:
The Sarajevo Haggadah
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, November 4, 6:00

Calder Quartet
Monday, November 16, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, December 2, 6:00

James Feddeke
Sunday, December 6, 2:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, January 6, 6:00

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, February 3, 6:00

CIM Organ Studio
Sunday, February 14, 2:00

JACK Quartet
Tuesday–Wednesday,
March 1–2, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, March 2, 6:00

Dervish
Friday, March 11, 7:30

Qasida
Wednesday, March 16, 7:30

Calder Quartet
Thursday, March 31, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, April 6, 6:00

Orlando Consort
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30

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Amir ElSaffar’s Rivers of Sound
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Tarek Abdallah & Adel Shams El-Din
Wednesday, April 27, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, April 27, 7:30

CIM/CWRU Joint Music Program
Wednesday, May 4, 6:00

Otomo Yoshihide
Monday, May 9, 7:30
DEPARTMENT OF
PERFORMING ARTS, MUSIC,
AND FILM
The Cleveland Museum of Art
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Programs are subject to change.

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TICKETS 1–888–CMA–0033  cma.org/PerformingArts