



DEVIL'S TALE

ADRIAN RASO and FANFARE CIOCĂRLIA

CD-ATR 4414



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Legend has it that the Devil likes to frequent crossroads, cutting deals for souls and spinning his cunning yarns. Yet not all crossroad pacts are diabolical; some are just damned brilliant. Take the crossroads encounter behind *Devil's Tale*, where the eastern force field of Balkan brass meets Gypsy jazz guitar, as Romania's Fanfare Ciocărlia joins up with Canadian guitarist Adrian Raso. Fanfare Ciocărlia are a 24-legged brass beast whose eastern funk groove has torn up halls and festivals across the planet. Raso is a master guitarist, deeply versed in the French Manouche/Gypsy jazz stylings of Django Reinhardt. Could a string musician find a way into Fanfare's fierce Balkan brass blast? Could the legends of brass adapt their horns to the fluid eloquence of a jazz guitarist? The answer, as heard on this album, is one of brilliant defiance. Dig the rush: the Romanians and the Canadian have created a sound that rips and swings and roars.

Adrian Raso has dreamt of this project for years. The gifted guitarist possesses a vast musical vocabulary rooted in Gypsy jazz yet, in his fleet fingers, capable of referencing metal, Latin, funk and his family's Italian tarantella roots. Raso built his virtuoso re-



putation playing Toronto's toughest clubs as a teenager. More than two decades later he remains on a musical quest that demands he challenge himself. The quest led to him reaching out to Fanfare Ciocărlia – the Gypsy orchestra from the “invisible” village of Zece Prajini in north eastern Romania – who blast a fierce, very individual brand of Balkan brass. Both Raso and Fanfare share a love of Django Reinhardt and big band jazz but initial concerns surrounded whether their very different backgrounds would allow for a common musical dialogue to ensure. ...

“Meeting the band was a great experience,” says Raso. “We bonded instantly. We joked about being separated brothers as it really did feel like that. Musically we understood each other from the get go.”

Fanfare Ciocărlia are the world’s greatest Balkan brass band. When a band is at the top, the undisputed heavyweight champion, they have two options: either get lazy and repeat themselves or seek out new challenges. Fanfare Ciocărlia are hungry men and, having seen too many Balkan brass bands descend into the farce of playing-standards-too-fast or allowing tone deaf DJs to exploit them as decoration over a lame electronic beat, they chose to broaden Balkan brass’s vocabulary. Meeting Adrian Raso gave the band the perfect musical foil.

Across several chilly Toronto days the Romanians and the Canadian came together. Raso called in several heavy friends to contribute to sessions. These included legendary guitarists John Jorgenson and Rodrigo (of Rodrigo & Gabriela) and rock drummer Kevin Figueiredo (of Extreme). This album – reaching down to New Orleans, across the Atlantic to Paris, deep into the Balkans and back through decaying Detroit to Toronto’s

grandeur – is the result. What wild beauty these men created! Raso’s guitar sets off on a fluid journey, caressing and cajoling the horns who tell tales of a music that has ancestors in Africa and India, one shaped in old Europe and young America. Perhaps no one involved guessed such wild beauty would result from these sessions. Here it is: Adrian Raso and Fanfare Ciocărlia have created a music rooted in jazz and the Balkans, a sound full of history but looking towards the future. No clichés here – No gimmicks. Just obsessed musicians all determined to raise their game and chase sonic dreams. Spread the word – here is magic that might charm even jaded old Mephistopheles!

Garth Cartwright



1. URN ST. TAVERN 4:06
2. SWING SAGARESE 3:10
3. THE ABSINTHE-MINDED GYPSY 4:28
4. C'EST LA VIE 2:46
5. QUATTRO CICCI 2:40
6. CHARLATAN'S WALTZ 2:54
7. DEVIL'S TALE 2:53
8. LEEZARD'S LAMENT 3:11
9. CAFÉ CON LECHE 3:15
10. SPIRITISSIMO 3:36
11. BIRELI'S WALTZ 3:48
12. DJANGO 4:07



FANFARE CIOCĂRLIA – www.fanfare-ciocarlia.com

COSTICA "CIMAI" TRIFAN – trumpet, vocals, RADULESCU LAZAR – trumpet
 PAUL MARIAN BULGARU – trumpet, TRIFAN CRACIUN – trumpet
 OPRICA IVANCEA – clarinet, alto saxophone, DANIEL IVANCEA – alto saxophone
 CONSTANTIN "PINCA" CANTEA – tuba, MONEL "GUTZEL" TRIFAN – tuba
 CONSTANTIN "SULO" CALIN – tenor horn, LAURENTIU MIHAI IVANCEA – baritone horn
 COSTEL "GISNIACA" URSU – large drum, NICOLAE IONITA – percussion



ADRIAN RASO – guitar, banjo & electric bass, www.adrianraso.net



special guests:

JOHN JORGENSON – guitar, mandoline & clarinet on track 3, 4, 11, 12
 RODRIGO – guitar solo on track 10, KEVIN FIGUEIREDO – drums on track 10
 KÁI SCHÖNBURG – drums & percussion except track 1, 6 & 10
 FLORIN IONITA – accordion on track 6, MARC ELSNER – electric bass on track 12
 MICHAEL METZLER – jew's harp on track 8

In memory of Jana Pollard

All tracks composed and arranged by Adrian Raso.

Additional arrangements by Henry Ernst (track 1, 6, 8, 11).

All horn arrangements by Henry Ernst. Produced by Henry Ernst and Marc Elsner except track 10 by Adrian Raso.

Recorded at Metalworks Studios Toronto, Canada; Lumbini Studios Ixtapa, Mexico;

Headroom Studio Berlin, Germany and in the village Zece Prajini, Romania.

Engineered by Kevin Dietz, Henry Ernst, Marc Elsner, Adrian Raso and Fermin Vazquez Llera.

Mixed by Marc Elsner and Henry Ernst at Headroom Studio, Berlin except track 10 mixed by Bob St. John

at PDQ Studios, Florida. Mastered by Marc Elsner at Headroom Studio, Berlin

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Liner notes by: Garth Cartwright

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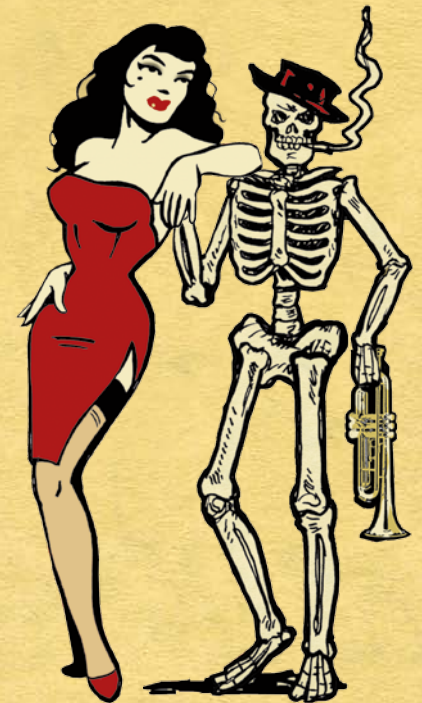
Helmut Neumann & Henry Ernst

Made in Germany

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More music of FANFARE CIOCĂRLIA and ADRIAN RASO
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GEMA

INDIGO

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