

LUCIAN BAN & MAT MANERI

Transylvanian Concert

When Romanian-born pianist Lucian Ban and Grammy-nominated violinist Mat Maneri joined up for a concert in an opera house in the middle of Romania's Transylvania region, the music was, as Jazz Times puts it, "*as close as it gets to Goth jazz*". Released in 2013 by ECM Records, **Transylvanian Concert** features a program of self-penned ballads, blues, hymns and abstract improvisations, the whole informed by the twin traditions of jazz and European chamber music. The album has won critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic, including several *Best Album of the Year* awards, and has spawned continuous touring throughout the world ever since. Currently Ban & Maneri are presenting music from their follow up album for ECM entitled *Transylvanian Dance* due to be released in the first part of 2024.

Album Video trailer: [HERE](#)

Transylvanian Concert @ ECM Records: [HERE](#)

The New York Times

"A lovely and restive new album on ECM – recorded in Mr. Ban's native land – that reveals their shared interest in enfolding mystery"



"Moments of unanticipated beauty"

The Guardian

"It has its own kind of melancholy beauty, and plenty of wayward exuberance, too"

LUCIAN BAN www.lucianban.com

Called “A name to watch” by The Guardian and “one of the most gifted pianists to move to New York” (Downtown Music Gallery NYC), Lucian Ban is a Romanian born, NYC based pianist & composer known for his amalgamations of Transylvanian folk with improvisation, for his mining of 20th Century European classical music with jazz, and for his pursue of a modern chamber jazz ideal. His music has been described as “emotionally ravishing” (Nate Chinen, New York Times), a “triumph of emotional and musical communication” (All About Jazz), “Unorthodox but mesmerizingly beautiful” (The Guardian) and as holding an “alluring timelessness and strong life-force” (Downbeat Magazine). Ban was raised in a small village in northwest Transylvania, in “the region where Bartok did his most extensive research and collecting of folk songs” and studied composition at the Bucharest Music Academy while simultaneously leading his own jazz groups and notes that his approach to improvisation has been influenced by “the profound musical contributions of Romanian modern classical composers like Aurel Stroe, Anatol Vieru and of course Enesco”. Desire to get closer to the source of jazz brought him to the US, and since moving from Romania to New York in 1999 his ensembles have included many of New York’s finest players.

His 2010 *Enesco Re-Imagined* third stream extravaganza octet celebrated the music of the great Romanian composer George Enesco and won several Best Album of The Year. *Songs from Afar* his 2nd album with the quartet ELEVATION featuring Abraham Burton, John Hebert and Eric McPherson wins 2016 Downbeat Magazine Best Album of The Year. Together with Mat Maneri and legendary British saxophonist John Surman they re-imagine the Bela Bartok Field Recordings of *Transylvanian folk songs* and the subsequent 2020 album brings immediate acclaim from fans and critics alike. Featured on NPR Fresh Air the album ascends to Billboard Top, the European Jazz Media Charts, Balkan World Music Charts, New York City Jazz Record BEST OF 2020 and more. Lucian Ban first solo piano album *Ways of Disappearing* is released in 2022 and gets rave reviews in The Wall Street Journal, Downbeat, NYC Jazz Record, etc. In 2023 together with Mat Maneri they release *Oedipe Redux*, a radical recast of George Enescu famed Oedipe opera.

MAT MANERI [Mat Maneri @ECM Records](#)

Over the course of a twenty-five year career, Mat Maneri has defined the voice of the viola and violin in jazz and improvised music. Born in Brooklyn in 1969, Maneri has established an international reputation as one of the most original and compelling artists of his generation, praised for his high degree of individualism, a distinctive marriage of jazz and microtonal music, and his work with 20th century icons of improvised music. All About Jazz says that Mat Maneri “has changed the way the jazz world listens to the Violin & Viola” As young musician, Maneri was influenced by the sounds of his childhood home. His father, saxophonist and composer Joe Maneri, was on faculty at the New England Conservatory, and colleagues like Ran Blake and Gunther Schuller were frequent visitors. Maneri possesses an immediately recognizable sound and approach which marries the distinct worlds of jazz and microtonal music in a fluid, remarkably expressive fashion which The Wire dubbed “endlessly fascinating.” In 1990, Mat co-founded the legendary Joe Maneri Quartet with his father, drummer Randy Peterson and bassists Ed Schuller and John Lockwood. The quartet’s recordings for ECM Records, Hatology and Leo Records were widely acknowledged by critics and fellow musicians as among the most important developments in 20th century improvised music. Maneri’s 1999 solo debut on **ECM Records** marked his emergence as a musician with a singular, uncompromised voice, reflecting a growing consensus of Maneri as a central figure in American creative music. Since then, the long list of musicians with whom he has worked includes icons such as Cecil Taylor, Paul Bley, Paul Motian and William Parker, as well as influential bandleaders such as Joe Morris, Vijay Iyer, Matthew Shipp, Marilyn Crispell, Joelle Leandre, Kris Davis, Tim Berne and Craig Taborn.