



**Titel:** Fanfare Ciocarlia – **the world-famous gypsy band from Romania**

**Duration:** 7'10''

**Insert:** **Author: Gerhard Losher**  
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**Cut: Christine Fanta**

Petre Viziru

Radu Trifan

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**Content:**

Behind the Carpatian Mountains, near the border to Moldavia, lies the village "Zece Prajni", the home of the world famous gypsy band "Fanfare Ciocarlia". The story of success of these 12 brass musicians sounds like a miracle, considering the seclusion and the poverty of the Roma living there. We have visited that village for having a look on how life changed on this place after the great success of some view inhabitants.

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**Text:**



The street drags on over ice and snow – in the summer the tarless street is covered with dust or mud. It seems to take 24 hours before we finally arrive here in Zece Prajini (Setsche Pr'schinj). We started off from Roman, the nearest city, which is actually 10 miles away– I just wonder whether it is 10 miles before or behind the back of beyond. We are on our way to the gypsy band Fanfare Ciocarlia, who fires audiences from all over the world, from Australia to the USA, and we can hardly believe finally meeting them after having driven along this uneven and shapeless street and as a matter of fact the village's only street.

Music on

This is how it must have been eight years ago, when they played for their concert manager who was searching for a gypsy band at that time. Once again the band wants to prove that they can distinguish themselves as outstanding musicians, which led to their reputation of being the “fastest band in the world”.

Music on

Taking a breather in the bar: it is hard to believe that these men with their dented instruments count among the stars of the modern music scene.

Question commentator: “Where did you learn to play that way?”

**Quote musician:**

**Clarinet? At home, from my father. I grew up with it.**

**Another musician:**

**They started playing around with it as toddlers:**

**Trumpet, bass, baritone and violin: they start playing around with it as toddlers. First they want to know why the instruments make such a noise and when they are 7 or 8 years old they know how to play them.**

Life in this village resembles the life we led one hundred years ago. No canalisation, no public water supply, there is electricity, but not enough money for washing machines, driers and for the most common blessings of normal households.



5'41 The way out of the village seems like a world tour. There are railway tracks and a train passes twice a day, however, it does not stop.

The villagers call themselves "Lautari", which means gypsy musicians because almost all of them play an instrument. Only Petre Viziru is an exception: he plays at weddings and in restaurants to make some extra money on top of his social benefits, but he is the only one to play the violin, all the others play brass instruments. That is very difficult for him.

**Quote Petre Viziru**

***Unfortunately, nowadays the violin is not important anymore. Today everybody plays electronic instruments as well as trumpets and saxophones. Although music without a violin is no real gypsy music at all. That is a real pity!***

***If only my parents taught me how to play the saxophone or the trumpet instead, I think I would have achieved more by now.***

Radu Trifan lives in the house next door. Instruments are spread all over the place and everybody dreams of being discovered, to get the chance to live a better life due to their music.

Music off/on

Question commentator for musician:

Do you have a profession?

**Quote musician:**

***No. I was trained as a mechanic and finished my 12 years of training and then continued playing music.***

**Quote Radu Trifan:**

***We earn our money at weddings, family gatherings and in the disco. But it is not much money. We are all waiting for a manager to discover us and show us the world. We could buy new clothes and would lead a better life. The life we lead now is very hard. The 35 euro we receive each month are not enough for anything.***

Even at school, music plays an important role. Beside reading, writing and arithmetic the children learn what their parents don't know how to do, writing down music. Even in the most remote parts of Romania, the education system has improved considerably over the last



few years. This might create new opportunities. When asked whose parents are musicians, a lot of pupils raise their hands, and when asked who wants to become a musician themselves, even more raise their hands.

Earning money to be finally able to buy things: most of them dream of a car. In Zece Prajini, which has about 500 inhabitants there are only 7 cars. And they all belong to the band members of Fanfare Ciocarlia.

This year, there they had real winter temperatures, which was a real problem for the villagers. An old man and his family live in this house. He already burned his whole fence in order to be able to heat his house.

Opposite is the house of Monel, who plays bass tuba in the Fanfare band. His old house was renovated and a new house was built next to it.

For Joan, the bandleader of Fanfare Ciocarli, a life has not changed all that much. He bought a car, but he does not even have a driving licence. He is not interested in the fact that he could afford buying a water pipe for his house. All that counts for him are memories.

However, Joan and his band donated money for one thing, and the villagers are proud of this: the building of a church, one of the few gypsy churches in Romania. This shows that the gypsies wish to adapt and integrate to the rest of Romanians post socialism world.

It will take some time until the church will be ready and the Reverend once more waits for more donations.

However, with God's blessings and more money from Fanfare Ciocarlia, their German managers and other donations the church will see a happy end as well.

End: music