

The New York Times, Tuesday, October 16, 2001

“... a band of speed demons, laughing its way across the bumpiest musical terrain.”

Gypsy Caravan Returns, Powered Up

... this sequel introduced Esma and another powerhouse, the Romanian brass band Fanfare Ciocarlia.

Fanfare Ciocarlia had tubas aplenty: four of various sizes, which pumped out limber oompah chords while trumpeters and clarinetists raced through hairpin-turn melodies, then tripled the velocity for solos. In one tune the byplay between trumpet and clarinet took some bluesy turns suggesting New Orleans jazz. Now and then the tempo eased for a vocal, with the horns as a brass chorale. But for most of the set Fanfare Ciocarlia was a band of speed demons, laughing its way across the bumpiest musical terrain.