

# Jazz in Church: Bucharest, Romania, March 21-24, 2013



[ADRIANA CARCU](#),

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[Arianna Savall](#) on harp and [Petter Udland Johansen](#) on violin are musical presences, who changed the atmosphere of the place as soon as they entered it, creating a state of grace that enveloped the audience in a halo of spirituality. The two musicians brought along old Catalonian chants, together with ballads of blue fjords, delicate Italian dances, and psalms raised in a diaphanous harmony, which transported the public in the time and place of past ages. In a caress of the bell with echoes that lingered in departing waves of brass, the voice of Arianna Savall arose as if announcing the beginning of a world. The violin took over the Gregorian song and Johansen's voice answered the call in a long incantation, which he then passed over to the instrument. The touch of the harp strings, like a tactile extension of Arianna's voice, was reminiscent of Saxon damsels in white castle towers. A ballad in vibrant tones regretted the lost beauty of the short Nordic summer; the touches of harp ruffled the strings like the wind bending ears of wheat. A Spanish dance in the clear sound of the mandolin, with whirls of red skirts in large flounces, and sharp taps of the foot were followed by Arianna's composition called "The Waterfall." In the caress of the harp, the crystal course of water followed the smooth voice like a current in which the inserts of the violin created clear whirls. The rhythm amplified the waves, tensing them in downfall over the stone. In St. Francis' prayer for peace the voices rose celestially inter-flowing with the delicate chords of the instruments, creating thus ethereal and eternal chants connected to the heights.

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