

LUCIAN BAN: piano (solo, tracks 4 & 10)  
ABRAHAM BURTON: tenor saxophone  
JOHN HÉBERT: bass ERIC MCPHERSON: drums  
MAT MANERI: viola (tracks 2, 3, 5, 6, 9)  
GAVRIL TARMURE: vocals (tracks 1, 5, 8)

- 1 Transylvanian Sorrow Song 3:57
- 2 Farewell 6:34 3 Travlin' With Ra 7:48
- 4 Solo For A Brother With Perfect Timing (For Al) 7:02
- 5 Transylvanian Wedding Song I 5:12
- 6 Chakra, The Island 7:56 7 Spiritual (For HJ) 6:56
- 8 Transylvanian Wedding Song II 2:19
- 9 Southern Dawn 5:17
- 10 Teaca, A Song From Afar 3:58

www.lucianban.com



LUCIAN BAN | ELEVATION | songs from afar | SSC 14xx



Special Guests: Mat Maneri | Gavril Tarmure

Lucian  
Ban **ELEVATION**  
Abraham Burton  
John Hébert  
Eric McPherson

songs from afar

## ELEVATION *Songs from Afar*

Transylvanian expat pianist & composer **Lucian Ban** and **ELEVATION** celebrate their 2<sup>nd</sup> album for Sunnyside records - ***Songs from Afar***. Released in 2016 the album immediately garnered rave reviews and honors – **DOWNBEAT BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR**, a 5\* review in DB march 2016 issue, ALL ABOUT JAZZ calls it “a triumph of emotional and musical communication” and New York City Jazz Record talks of an “Inspiring and touching journey, that seamlessly blends the traditions of jazz and folk songs”.

**DOWNBEAT**  
Jazz, Blues & Beyond SINCE 1934

*“Alluring timelessness . . . a strong life-force that seems to flow through this music . . . like many of the great masters, pianist Lucian Ban makes personal art that feels universal”* **5\* STARS!**

**all about jazz**

*“Songs From Afar is a triumph of emotional and musical communication, and is not to be missed”*

Streams of influence from the past and cultural identities sometimes merge with one’s quest for forms of expression. **Songs From Afar** represents two traditions, two musical worlds, and many musical elements coming together to fashion a unique identity that truly spans continents and styles.

*“Songs from afar is very personal for me because the album is intimately tied to my Romanian cultural heritage and to the jazz influences that help me find out more about where I come from – and where I’m going. It’s not only the ancient Transylvanian folk songs that we approach in this recording, it’s also how the other pieces and improvisations reflect the constant search for musical meaning”* notes Transylvanian expat pianist and composer Lucian Ban talking about his 2<sup>nd</sup> album with Elevation quartet in his 3<sup>rd</sup> appearance for Sunnyside.

Featuring the core band from the 2013 multiple BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR **"Mystery"** (Sunnyside) with **Abraham Burton** saxophone, **John Hebert** bass and **Eric McPherson** drums, for **Songs from Afar** Lucian Ban has invited long time collaborator & master violist **Mat Maneri** to participate on several numbers along with Transylvanian singer **Gavril Tarmure** whose voice soars on the ancient Transylvanian folk songs.

Sunnyside Records album page: <http://sunnysidezone.com/album/songs-from-afar>



There is an alluring timelessness to the music created by pianist **Lucian Ban's** quartet on **Songs From Afar**. The group plays without artifice, whether mining Transylvanian folk music or paying tribute to Sun Ra. This is an especially powerful program that reveals new high points with each listen. Ban has tapped an essential source.

Album video trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24L8nlf\\_1Bq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24L8nlf_1Bq)

**"Elevation** has established itself as a unique voice in the world of jazz. The group has taken elements of modern jazz and the avant-garde, employing musicians who have been movers in both, creating an original direction **"ELEVATION is an enlightened state of mind and this music is certain to take you there"**

**Jazz Inside Magazine NYC**



ELEVATION was founded in New York in 2006 by pianist Lucian Ban and saxophonist Abraham Burton and has performed countless concerts and tours in the past decade *"Like Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner and other vanguard bandleaders of that era, the Romanian born pianist-composer **Lucian Ban** alongside intense saxophonist **Abraham Burton** alongside bassist **John Hebert** and drummer **Eric McPherson** favor searching post bop that cranes toward the avant-garde without losing the buoyancy of swing"* **TIME OUT New York**

The quartet's first album **"Mystery"** – an incendiary live set recorded in NYC - was released in 2013 by Sunnyside Records and won several **BEST OF 2013** awards (Jeff Stockton @ NYC Jazz Record, Ken Micaleff @ Down Beat, Elzy Kolb @ Hot House) and spanned several tours.

Audio excerpts from albums **Songs From Afar:**

Transylvanian Sorrow Song: <https://soundcloud.com/soundluc/tss>

Travlin' with Ra: <https://soundcloud.com/soundluc/travling-with-ra>

Transylvanian Wedding Song : <https://soundcloud.com/soundluc/transylvanian-wedding-song-j>

## Videos YouTube

- **Syndrome** live @ Bimhuis, Amsterdam <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10ZqVGA5Amo>
- **Freeflow** live in NYC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYKVAVH0IKk>

### ABRAHAM BURTON

New York saxophonist Abraham Burton's music has been called exquisite jazz. New York Times says about **Burton** "If the young saxophonist **Abraham Burton** was ever to be drawn in a cartoon, he'd have flames coming out of his saxophone. His solos are powerful and creative"

He began developing his natural skills by attending Hartford's Hartt School of Music where he learned well from talented artists like Michael Carvin and Jackie McLean. Burton graduated from the school with a B.A. in music and a new love for the work of jazz greats such as Louis Armstrong and Lester Young.

In 1992, the young Burton became a member of the Wailers, a jazz band headed by longtime artist Arthur Taylor. The group released two albums together. They also did a number of tours through Europe.

He went on to form his own band in '94 entitled "The Abraham Burton Quartet" which recorded "Closest to the Sun", "The Magician" and "Cause and Effect" the latter being a collaboration with drummer extraordinaire Eric McPherson, on the Enja Records label. Abraham attributes much of his success from experiences acquired performing, touring and recording with masters and being affiliated with numerous and notable musicians such as Roy Haynes, Louis Hayes, Walter Bishop jr, Horace Tapscott, Kenny Barron, Jimmy Smith, John Hicks, Santi Debriano, Bill Saxton, Gary Bartz, Victor Lewis, Michael Carvin, Mulgrew Miller, Steve Nelson, Cindy Blackman, Ray Drummond, Terumasa Hino, Billy Hart, Peter Washington, Conrad Herwig, Steve Davis, Grisella Oliphant, Rein De Graff, Nasheet Waits, Eric McPherson, Eddie Henderson, David Murray, Antoine Rooney, James Carter, Yosuke Inoue, James Hurt, Marc Cary, Sam Newsome, Duane Eubanks, Winton Marcellus, Roy Hargrove, Wallace Rooney, Cyrus Chestnut, Christian McBride. For more info [www.abrahamburtonjazz.com](http://www.abrahamburtonjazz.com)



### LUCIAN BAN



Was raised in a small village in northwest Transylvania, in "the region where Bartók did his most extensive research and collecting of folk songs" and grew up listening to both traditional and classical music. He 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 his ensembles have included many of New York's finest players. Twice nominated in 2005 & 2006 for prestigious Hans Koller "Best European Jazz

Musician Preis Award, Ban currently lives in New York City where is part of the next generation of performers & composers at the forefront of contemporary modern jazz. He has released 11 albums as a leader for **Sunnyside Records**, **Jazzaway**, and **ECM Records**. Lucian Ban has performed/recorded with among others: Alex Harding, Barry Altschul, Gerald Cleaver, Bob Stewart, Badal Roy, Tony Malaby, Mark Helias, Sam Newsome, Art Baron, Curtis Fowlkes, Gene Jackson, Nasheet Waits, Pheeroan AkLaff, Reggie Nicholson, Drew Gress, J.D.Allen, Essiet Essiet, Chris Dahlgren, Brad Jones, among many others. [www.lucianban.com](http://www.lucianban.com)



## JOHN HÉBERT

One of the most in demand bass players in New York. He was voted twice in 2006 and 2007 in **DownBeat Critics Poll** as a **“Rising Star Acoustic Bassist”**. He worked also with the late **Andrew Hill Trio, Nonet and Quintet** appearing on his latest Blue Note Records album **“Time Lines”** album voted **“Album of the Year”** in 2006 by Downbeat Magazine. He has worked alongside such world famous artists such as **Andrew Hill, Lee Konitz, Paul Bley, John Abercrombie, Greg Osby, Kenny Wheeler, David Liebman, Fred Hersch, Paul Motian, Maria Schneider, Jason Moran, Toots Thielemans** and many others. For more info, bio, sound samples, press please visit: [www.johnhebert.com](http://www.johnhebert.com)

## ERIC McPHERSON

Considered One of the most important drummers of the new millennium Eric McPherson Born and raised in New York, Eric was immersed in music from birth on: Richard Davis, his godfather and an icon among jazz bassists, was present at his birth. It was Richard who suggested he be named after Eric Dolphy. By the time Eric was eight, he was teaching himself to play on a drum set borrowed from Charles Moffett. At twelve, he started seven years of formal drum studies under **Michael Carvin**, a master drummer and a brilliant teacher. Upon graduating, his mentor Michael Carvin recommended Eric to **Jackie McLean**. That led to a full scholarship for attending the Jackie McLean Institute at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford. While still a student at Hartt, Jackie invited Eric to join the **Jackie McLean Quintet** along with **Rene McLean, Alan Palmer and Nat Reeves**. For the next 15 years, until Jackie's recent death, Eric was his drummer, following in the distinguished footsteps of drummers Michael Carvin, Billy Higgins, Jack DeJohnette and Tony Williams. Over those years, Eric recorded two CDs with Jackie and performed with him at major venues and festivals all over the Far East, Middle East, Latin America, Europe, the Caribbean, and the U.S. In addition to his touring and recording with Jackie McLean, Eric has also performed with a wide range of major jazz figures, including **Pharaoh Sanders, Gary Bartz, Andrew Hill, Richard Davis, Claudia Acuna, Jason Moran, Greg Osby, Avishai Cohen** and many others.



For more info, bio, sound samples, press please visit [www.ericmcpherson.com](http://www.ericmcpherson.com)



## “Elevation - Blustery”! *Chicago Reader*