



George Enescu Philharmonic: Music and Grace

With the oldest symphony orchestra in Romania, the George Enescu Philharmonic has been pioneering new paths and promoting classical music since 1868.

Today, George Enescu Philharmonic brings together the finest musicians in Romania and collaborates with internationally renowned conductors and soloists, offering concerts where artists and audiences share in a state of grace. The orchestra performs a diverse repertoire, ranging from Bach to contemporary composers, from monumental and well-established works to premieres by young talents in classical music. Its sound is rich, warm, and clear, reminiscent of amber and the wood essences of string instruments, giving it a distinguished quality. The Philharmonic's mission is to bring high-quality classical music, and the wealth of emotions this can generate, to broad audiences. This is why its slogan is "Music and Grace."

The 2024-2025 Symphony Season was the first of international caliber in recent decades, thanks to its rich repertoire and the presence of world-renowned artists such as Mikhail Pletnev, Charles Dutoit, Thomas and Michael Sanderling, Lawrence Foster, Leonard Slatkin, Vasily Petrenko, Andreas Haefliger, Sayaka Shoji, Hrachuhi Bassenz, Julian Rachlin, Renaud Capuçon.

This Season was organized as part of [a strategic development and transformation project led by the Philharmonic's manager, Marin Cazacu](#), aiming to reposition the institution at an international level. The project is built on four strategic pillars: an ambitious artistic program featuring top-tier guests from the global classical music scene; up-to-date rebranding and communication; developing the Romanian Athenaeum as a cultural center; and enhancing the Philharmonic's educational programs and community involvement.

In January 2025, the Romanian Union of Music Critics, Editors, and Broadcasters awarded the George Enescu Philharmonic the MUSICRIT 2024 Award for Best Symphony Season, while its director, **Marin Cazacu**, received the MUSICRIT 2024 Award for Cultural Management.

The Philharmonic's history dates back more than 150 years to 1868 when Eduard Wachman founded the Romanian Philharmonic Society to establish the first professional symphony orchestra in Romania. Over time, the Philharmonic Orchestra performed under the baton of some of the greatest conductors in the world, experiencing a true golden era with legendary figures such as George



Enescu, Arthur Rubinstein, Richard Strauss, Maurice Ravel, Igor Stravinsky, Herbert von Karajan, Dinu Lipatti, Pablo Casals, David Oistrakh, to name just a few.

Alongside the symphony orchestra, the George Enescu Philharmonic Choir was founded on December 1, 1950, by conductor and composer Constantin Silvestri. The choir fulfilled a profound cultural need in Romania: bringing high-quality vocal-symphonic music to major concert halls.

The George Enescu Philharmonic remained a significant institution for classical music even during the communist era, with its most emotional moments most likely being the concerts conducted by the renowned Sergiu Celibidache at the Romanian Athenaeum in 1978. After 1990, the Philharmonic entered a new phase of cultivating its identity and refining its distinctive sound.

For more details about the history of the George Enescu Philharmonic, please visit <https://filarmonicaenescu.ro/en/filarmonica> in the **About Us – The Philharmonic section**.