



George Enescu Philharmonic 2025–2026 Season

Featuring an internationally renowned lineup that includes Kent Nagano, Gidon Kremer, Leonidas Kavakos, Lawrence Foster, Nikolai Lugansky, Kirill Gerstein, Gautier Capuçon, Leonard Slatkin, Matthias Goerne, Ton Koopman, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Daniele Rustioni, and Dennis Russell Davies, and a diverse and captivating program, the George Enescu Philharmonic continues its ambitious path of growth undertaken in recent years.

- **In the 2025–2026 Season, the George Enescu Philharmonic will present to its audience 76 Romanian and international conductors and soloists of international standing, 75% of whom are appearing for the first time in the institution's artistic programming**
- **The Season's program includes premieres, large-scale vocal-symphonic works, Enescu's music, and notable returns**
- **Mihai Ritivoiu is the Artist-In-Residence of the George Enescu Philharmonic in the 2025–2026 Season**
- **The George Enescu Philharmonic continues its tradition of supporting contemporary Romanian creation**

"The 2025–2026 Season continues the George Enescu Philharmonic's bold vision of becoming a major player on the international classical music scene, while reaffirming the Romanian Athenaeum as the cultural heart of Bucharest. We are committed to building on the momentum of last Season — the most prestigious in decades — by offering our audiences in Bucharest a musical experience on par with those in the great cultural capitals of the world. This year's Season will feature world-class conductors and soloists such as Kent Nagano, Gidon Kremer, Leonidas Kavakos, Lawrence Foster, Leonard Slatkin, Matthias Goerne, Nikolai Lugansky, Kirill Gerstein, Gautier Capuçon, Ton Koopman, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Daniele Rustioni, Dennis Russell Davies, Leo Hussain, as well as some of the most talented Romanian artists. The repertoire will offer both iconic works and musical discoveries, striking a balance designed to inspire and delight," declared for press **Marin Cazacu, General Director of the George Enescu Philharmonic.**



Distinguished Guests of the 2025–2026 Season

Over 75% of the invited artists will perform with the Philharmonic for the first time.

Notable names include:

- Conductors **Kent Nagano**, **Ton Koopman**, **Dennis Russell Davies**, **Daniele Rustioni**
- Pianists **Nikolai Lugansky**, **Kirill Gerstein**
- Violinists **Gidon Kremer**, **Leonidas Kavakos**
- Cellist **Gautier Capuçon**
- Vocal Soloists: **Matthias Goerne** (baritone), **Sunnyboy Dladla** (tenor), **Sarah Traubel** (soprano), **Ramona Zaharia** (mezzo-soprano), **Justina Gringytė** (mezzo-soprano), **Chen Reiss** (soprano), **Carolyn Sampson** (soprano), **Benjamin Hulett** (tenor), **Matthew Brook** (baritone), **Cristina Păsăroiu** (soprano), **Alexander Ruslavets** (bass).

Also returning are renowned conductors beloved by Romanian audiences, including **Lawrence Foster**, a long-time advocate of Romanian music and culture, alongside **Leonard Slatkin**, **Andrey Boreyko**, **Sunwook Kim**, and **Gilbert Varga**.

The Season will feature prominent Romanian artists, including conductors **Cristian Mandeal** and **Gabriel Bebeșelea**, as well as young artists such as pianist **Mihai Ritivoiu**, laureate of the 2011 George Enescu Competition (Artist-in-Residence in the 2025-2026 Season), pianist **Andrei Gologan**, violinist **Valentin Șerban**, and cellist **Ștefan Cazacu**.

The Season spotlights some of the most exciting young artists of today: violinists **Daniel Lozakovich** (Sweden), **Sergey Khachatryan** (Armenia); pianists **Anton Mejias** (Finland), **Lise de la Salle** (France), **Zee Zee** (China–USA), **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason** (UK), **Lucas Debargue** (France), **Alexander Gadjiev** (Italy–Slovenia).

New Season's Program features major works, notable debuts, Enescu's legacy, and stylistic diversity.

Season highlights include monumental repertoire, anticipated returns, and rarely heard gems. The Season launches with **Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring** conducted by **Kent Nagano**, alongside **Beethoven's Violin Concerto** and **George Enescu's Concert Overture on Romanian Folk Themes**, featuring **Frank Peter Zimmermann** as soloist.

Other **major vocal-symphonic works** featured throughout the Season include:

- **Ludwig van Beethoven – Mass in C Major** (Oct 30/31, conductor Lawrence Foster)



- **Gustav Mahler – Symphony No. 3** (Nov 13/14, conductor Roberto Trevino; mezzo-soprano Justina Gringytè)
- **Johannes Brahms – A German Requiem** (Mar 5/6, 2026, conductor Michele Mariotti)
- **Joseph Haydn – The Creation** (Apr 8/9, conductor Paul McCreesh)
- **Anton Bruckner – Te Deum** (Season Finale – conductor Daniele Rustioni)

This Season affirms the Philharmonic's dedication to **contemporary repertoire**, with **numerous premieres** at the Romanian Athenaeum:

- **Sofia Gubaidulina** – Offertorium, Violin Concerto No. 1 (Dec 11/12, with violinist **Gidon Kremer**)
- **Mihaela Vosganian** – Broken
- **Bernard Herrmann** – Adagietto from The Snows of Kilimanjaro
- **Gara Garayev** – Don Quixote: Symphonic Engravings
- **George Gershwin** – Strike Up the Band Overture
- **Cindy McTee** – Circuits

Following a 16-year hiatus, conductor **Cristian Mandeal**, former Artistic Director of the Philharmonic (1991–2009), makes a symbolic return to the podium on April 16/17, 2026.

George Enescu's legacy remains a central pillar of the season, with performances of **Concert Overture on Romanian Folk Themes, Op. 32; Triumphal Overture; Symphonie Concertante in B minor for Cello and Orchestra, Op. 8; Romanian Rhapsody No. 2 in D major, Op. 11; The Voice of Nature; Symphony No. 3 in C major, Op. 21; Romanian Rhapsody No. 1 in A major, Op. 11**

Notably, the **George Enescu Philharmonic** will present **the world premiere of Diana Rotaru's Cuib (The Nest)**, specially commissioned for this Season.

For more information about the 2024–2025 Symphonic Season Program, you can visit <https://filarmonicaenescu.ro/en/evenimente>, under the Events & Tickets section.