

April 15, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Unmissable Concerts: Exceptional Conductor Vasily Petrenko will conduct George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra for the first time, on April 16 and 17

"I think it will be the great Resurrection in the Easter Week," says Petrenko about the monumental Symphony No. 2 by Mahler, featured in the program

Vasily Petrenko will conduct the [George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra](https://www.oveit.com/hub/event/concert-vocalsimfonic-PzXXMAzJ) for the first time on April 16 and 17 in two extraordinary vocal-symphonic concerts, featuring Gustav Mahler's monumental Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*. The soloists of the evening will be soprano Kateřina Kněžíková and mezzo-soprano Roxana Constantinescu, in a remarkable performance of one of the most impressive works by the Austrian composer.

Only a few tickets left for the Thursday, April 17 concert, at www.oveit.com or directly at <https://oveit.com/hub/event/concert-vocalsimfonic-PzXXMAzJ>. The Wednesday concert is sold out. The full schedule for the 2024/2025 Season can be found here: <https://filarmonicaenescu.ro/en/evenimente>.

Vasily Petrenko has been Music Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra since 2021 and is Conductor Laureate of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, following a successful 15-year tenure. He is also Associate Conductor of the Castilla y León Symphony Orchestra and was Principal Conductor of the European Union Youth Orchestra (2015–2024), the Oslo Philharmonic (2013–2020), and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (2009–2013). In 2021, he stepped down as Artistic Director of the Russian State Academic Symphony Orchestra "Evgeny Svetlanov", where he had been Principal Guest Conductor since 2016 and Artistic Director since 2020.

"It's such a great pleasure to be back in Bucharest. And together, for the first time, with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, here in the Athenaeum, to rehearse this wonderful symphony of Gustav Mahler. It is a great symphony and it's something very special to do it here this week. I think it will be the great Resurrection in the Easter Week. Come to the concerts, enjoy and love classical music!", conductor **Vasily Petrenko** stated for the press.

Czech soprano **Kateřina Kněžíková** has long been a resident artist at the National Opera in Prague. Her repertoire includes Dvořák's *Rusalka*, Smetana's *Libuše*, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Jenůfa*, Puccini's *Mimi*, and Mozart's *Donna Elvira*, *Countess*, and *Fiordiligi*. She has appeared as a guest soloist with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Deutsches



Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

Mezzo-soprano **Roxana Constantinescu** has performed lieder recitals at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Vienna's Musikverein, Abbaye de Lessay, and Goethe House. Her CD recording of Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*, conducted by Pierre Boulez, was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2010. She has recorded for BIS Records, PentaTone Music, Hänssler Classic, OEHMS Classics, SWR, CSO Resound, Artmode Records, Weltbild, and Carus Verlag. She has performed with major orchestras such as the Chicago, Vienna, Munich, and Toronto Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, and Stuttgart Radio Orchestra.

Symphony No. 2 in C minor, Resurrection by Gustav Mahler is one of the most powerful and luminous works in the Austrian composer's oeuvre. Mahler used Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock's poem *Die Auferstehung (The Resurrection)* to address the symphony's central theme — the triumph of life over death. He added four verses of his own to express his vision of spiritual awakening, a form of divine liberation. Written for soprano, mezzo-soprano, chorus, and orchestra, this monumental piece explores profound existential themes about life, death, and rebirth, in a continuous search for meaning and redemption.

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