

June 5, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

2025 Athenaeum Summer Festival brings back the summer energy, classical harmonies, and film music to the heart of the Capital, June 14–25

The Athenaeum Summer Festival returns in 2025 with a new edition from June 14 to 25. Music lovers are invited to five engaging evenings — two open-air concerts on the Esplanade of the Romanian Athenaeum, with free admission, and three memorable nights in the Grand Auditorium, featuring the George Enescu Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra, internationally acclaimed soloists, and renowned ensembles. The program promises both stylistic variety and a relaxed summer atmosphere, ranging from baroque and romantic masterpieces to contemporary works and film music.

The concerts on June 14 and 15, on the Athenaeum's Esplanade, are free to attend. Tickets for the Grand Auditorium concerts on June 18, 24, and 25 can be purchased online at www.oveit.com or directly via this link: <https://oveit.com/hub/org/I7PDAr7y>

June 14 | 8:00 PM | Homage to Antonio Vivaldi | Athenaeum String Sextet

The Festival opens with an open-air concert on the Romanian Athenaeum Esplanade, paying homage to the renowned composer Antonio Vivaldi. Under the baton of violinist Rafael Butaru, the Athenaeum String Sextet will perform *La Stravaganza* and the famous *Four Seasons*.

June 15 | 8:00 PM | Classical, Entertainment, Film Music | Athenaeum Brass Sextet

Sunday's concert highlights the unique sound of brass instruments. The Athenaeum Brass Sextet returns to the Esplanade with an eclectic and accessible program blending classical themes, entertainment music, and film scores. A unique opportunity for the general public to enjoy music in a relaxed and vibrant setting — free entry.

June 18 | 7:00 PM | Verdi, Bruch & Dvořák | George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra

The symphonic concert of the George Enescu Philharmonic features two outstanding artists: conductor Ciprian Marinescu and violinist Liviu Prunaru. The program includes three landmark works: Verdi's *Overture to La Forza del Destino*, Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, and Dvořák's *Symphony No. 8*.



June 24 | 7:00 PM | Classical Accordion Recital | Radu Rățoi

Musician Radu Rățoi presents a rare and impressive classical accordion recital. From Bach and Couperin to Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns, and contemporary composers, the recital showcases the instrument's versatility and expressive range. Radu Rățoi has won the six most prestigious accordion competitions in the world — *Coupe Mondiale*, *Klingenthal Accordion Competition*, *Trophy Mondiale*, *Arrasate Accordion Competition*, *PIF Castelfidardo*, and the *Moscow Accordion Competition*. He is the first and only artist to win all these awards in both Classical Music and Entertainment Music categories.

June 25 | 7:00 PM | Homage to Carl Orff | George Enescu Philharmonic Choir & Bucharest Percussion Ensemble

The Festival concludes with a fascinating concert: a performance of *Carmina Burana* and *Catulli Carmina* in a version for choir, soloists, pianos, and percussion ensemble. Celebrating 130 years since Carl Orff's birth, the audience will experience a powerful musical narrative about fate, love, and passion.

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