
THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR
MADRIGAL
MARIN CONSTANTIN
CONDUCTOR ANNA UNGUREANU
EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT
BRIDGES ACROSS EUROPE
25 NOVEMBER 2024 / 19H00
AMUZ CONCERT HALL
ANTWERP
MINISTERUL CULTURII
MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN
INSTITUTUL CULTURAL ROMÂN
INSTITUT CULTUREL ROUMAIN BRUXELLES
WITH THE SUPPORT OF:
AMBASSADE DE ROUMANIE AU ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE



THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR MADRIGAL - MARIN CONSTANTIN

Founded in 1963 by the legendary musician and conductor Marin Constantin (1925 – 2011), the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" has become a benchmark of musical life and cultural diplomacy at both national and international levels. It is defined by its distinctive sound, non-vibrato technique, stereophonic stage arrangement, and impressive costumes. Its repertoire spans over Renaissance, Pre-Classical and Classical music, Romanticism, Byzantine music, as well as contemporary Romanian and universal creations. The choir's stage presence and structure have been continuously refined, to such an extent that its performance has been compared by critics to "*a Stradivarius violin in Paganini's hands.*"

Distinguished with numerous international awards, the Madrigal Choir has graced the world's most prestigious stages, performing in thousands of concerts and shows. In November 2016, the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" has been officially recognized as an Ambassador of Freedom, Hope, and Peace, receiving the "Jean Nussbaum and Eleanor Roosevelt" Award at the United Nations Palace in Geneva during the Global Summit on Religion, Peace, and Security.

In 2023, celebrating 60 years of existence, the Madrigal Choir held its sixth tour in the U.S., performing at the United States Congress and in some of the largest cathedrals in New York, Washington D. C., Chicago and Seattle. The year 2024 brought an absolute world premiere - The Madrigal Choir embarked on its first South American tour, in Peru, performed concerts in Lima, Cusco and Aguas Calientes and shot a music video in Machu Picchu. In October 2024, the Madrigal Choir made a new video and gave an extraordinary concert at the Pantheon in Rome.

Since 2011, the Madrigal Choir has been running the Cantus Mundi National Program, Romania's largest social integration program through music for children, initiated by the renowned conductor Ion Marin. The program currently brings together 2,039 choirs and over 72,000 children from Romania and the diaspora.

MARIN CONSTANTIN

Founder Conductor of the Chamber Choir "Madrigal"



Asked in an interview how he would see a 100 year-old Madrigal, Maestro Marin Constantin replied: "*I would like it to be as I still dream of it, but it should be no less than what those living at that time will dream it to be.*"
Born on February 27, 1925, in Urleta, Prahova county (Romania), Marin Constantin obtained in 1949 two degrees from the Faculty of Music Pedagogy (Choir Conducting section) of the Music Conservatory in Bucharest, respectively from the Faculty of Pedagogy, Psychology and Philosophy of the University of Bucharest. He became a Doctor of Musicology in 1985. In 1994, he was made Doctor Honoris Causa at the Academy of Music "Gh. Dima" from Cluj-Napoca. Legendary teacher, composer and conductor, Maestro Marin Constantin founded the "Madrigal" Chamber Choir in 1963, and acted as its conductor and manager for 47 years. At the same time, he had a prestigious career as a university professor and held several positions in cultural management, including that of General Director of the Romanian Opera (1966 - 1969).
Throughout his life, Marin Constantin was honored with many awards, decorations and distinctions, being the only Romanian who has ever received the title of "Ambassadeur de Bonne Volonté" of UNESCO (1992). Marin Constantin passed away on January 1, 2011.

ION MARIN

Honorary Director of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin"



A fascinating personality of the international music scene, Ion Marin is one of the few conductors who excel both in symphonic and opera music. Ion Marin is officially recognised for his outstanding service to Romanian culture, art and image in the world, as well as for the social dimension of his impact. Since 2020, Ion Marin has been Professor at the prestigious Mozarteum University in Salzburg, coordinator of the "Claudio Abbado" choral conducting department and artistic director of its concert activity. He was awarded in 2021 the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Republic for his "contribution and commitment to the service of culture". In the same year, he was appointed Honorary Consul of Romania in Lugano (Switzerland), an official recognition of his constant efforts in cultural diplomacy. On 1 February 2022, Ion Marin conducted the first concert of the Mozarteum Academic Orchestra, founded on his initiative.



LIVIU JICMAN

President of the Romanian Cultural Institute
President of European Union National Institutes for Culture - EUNIC

"Dear music lovers and friends of Romanian culture,

This autumn, we invite you to the 'Bridges Across Europe' tour of the National Chamber Choir 'Madrigal – Marin Constantin', starting in Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, and continuing into the heart of Europe, in Belgium and Luxembourg. The tour includes exceptional musical events organized in honor of Romania's National Day, scheduled as follows: Luxembourg, November 20, at Notre-Dame Cathedral; Brussels, November 21, at the Church of Our Lady of the Sablon; Bruges, November 23, at St. Anna Church; Brussels, November 24, at the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM); Antwerp, November 25, at AMUZ Concert Hall (St. Augustine Church).

The Madrigal's multi-annual tour, scheduled in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR) for the period 2022-2025, includes significant destinations across several continents – North America, South America, Europe, and Asia – so that the charm and virtuosity of Romanian choral music may reach all the corners of the world.

The cultural relationship between Romania and the European Union is rich and diverse. Alongside the Romanian Culture Day, we celebrate a series of historical events that define us as a nation: the Union of the Principalities, the Day of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania, Romanian Language Day, and, not least, Romania's National Day. Each of these moments represents an opportunity to present internationally recognized Romanian artists. At the same time, Romanian creators are connected and integrated into the European cultural environment, bringing their permanent contribution to European culture and strengthening our national identity under the framework of a common European heritage. The Madrigal Choir's concerts are more than simple events. We promote through them not only the essential values of Romanian performing arts, but also a blend of traditions, trends, and sensitivities that define us as a nation.
Let us enjoy this celebration of spirit and honor the essence of our culture through music!"

BRIDGES ACROSS EUROPE

EMIL PANTELIMON

Manager of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin"

One of the youngest and most successful creative industries managers in Romania, Emil Pantelimon has been coordinating numerous educational and cultural programmes over the past 20 years. Emil Pantelimon creates results-oriented environments in every team he leads, brings an entrepreneurial spirit to all the projects he is involved in and inspires generations of passionate artists and young people.

Emil Pantelimon has been the manager of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin" since 2015. His innovative vision amplifies the impact of the Madrigal Choir's presence on world stages and influences thousands of children from all over Romania, who sing alongside the Madrigal Choir within the National Cantus Mundi Program.

In 2020, Emil Pantelimon directed a Madrigal Choir performance for the first time - the "Ave Maria" project, one of the greatest successes of the year. Other significant performances followed shortly: "On the Way to Christmas", "The Holy Week", "Shakespeare - Sound and Word", "About Culture", "Madrigal sings to the children", "The Music of the European Renaissance", "Madrigal for Babies", "MADRIGAL: RITUALS", "MADRIGAL: ULTRAsounds" or Anniversary Galas and Madrigal Festivals. In 2023, on his initiative, the Madrigal Choir implemented the anniversary program "MADRIGAL 60", which included dozens of outstanding cultural projects, carried out throughout the year.



MADRIGAL.RO



ANNA UNGUREANU

Principal Conductor of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin"

The professional experience Anna Ungureanu gained alongside the founder of the Madrigal Choir, Maestro Marin Constantin, who mentored her for nearly nine years, establishes her as a disciple and successor of the legendary conductor. Doctor of Music since 2009, Anna Ungureanu has been the principal conductor of the Madrigal Choir since 2014 and the Artistic Director of the Cantus Mundi National Program, initiated by the conductor Ion Marin. Trained under the guidance of renowned musicians Marin Constantin and Ion Marin, Anna Ungureanu has conducted hundreds of concerts with the Madrigal Choir in Romania and numerous countries across Europe, America, and Asia. Beyond her impressive career as a conductor, Anna Ungureanu is an inspiring mentor to future generations of choir conductors in Romania.

Awarded with numerous prizes and honors, Anna Ungureanu has been chosen in 2022 as Romania's representative on the World Choir Council, the governing body of the Global Choir Organization INTERKULTUR. She is a member of several international juries, including the "My First Fifty Years" International Choral Composition Competition, the "Vox Lucensis" International Choir Competition in Italy, and the "World Choir Games" in New Zealand. More recently in 2023 she has been awarded with the Order of Cultural Merit, Officer rank, Category D - "Performing Arts" by the President of Romania, in appreciation for the professionalism, dedication and talent she has shown in her entire activity.

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR MADRIGAL - MARIN CONSTANTIN

Conductor ANNA UNGUREANU

Manager EMIL PANTELIMON

Choir Director SIMONA HAIDEU

LYRIC ARTISTS

SOPRANOS
Angelica Florina Baciu
Ana-Maria Elefterescu
Simona Gabriela Haideu
Roxana-Cristina Ilie
Luciana Alina Ioan
Silvia-Cristina Maxim
Georgiana Năstac-Gorgan
Mirabela Maria Oncescu
Renata Dalma Petrică
Ana Georgeta Popescu
Alexandra Spireanu
Ana-Maria Szekely
Melania Turcu

ALTOS
Delia Irina Andronache
Roxana Maria Bănică
Anastasia Irina Paiu
Cristina Petrică
Sorina Popescu
Florentina Pușcoi

TENORS
Marian Petre Costache-Toma
Doru Cosmin Feraru
Georgian Ilie
Denis Constantin Maxim
Dragancho Najdoski
Emanuel Pecingină
Paul Turcu

BASSES
Bogdan Ștefan Andronache
Radu Bogdan Isăcescu
Adrian Năstac
Silviu Năstase
Tănase Iordanian Nichita
Dragoș Iulian Petrică
Silviu Mihai Rusu

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT "BRIDGES ACROSS EUROPE"

AMUZ Concert Hall, St. Augustine Church, Antwerp

25th November 2024



BRIDGES ACROSS EUROPE

PROGRAM

François van Campenhout, arr. Alain De Ley – "Brabançonne"

Anton Pann – "Deșteaptă-te, române!"

Ludwig van Beethoven - "Odă bucuriei"

Claudio Monteverdi – "Cantate Domino"

John Leavitt – "Festival Sanctus"
Piano: Abel Corban

Ola Gjeilo – "Unicornis captivatur"

Gabriel Fauré – "Madrigal"
Piano: Abel Corban

Ēriks Ešenvalds – „Only in Sleep"
Soloist: Anna Mirescu

Vytautas Miškinis – "Pater noster"

Gabriel Fauré – "Cantique de Jean Racine"
Piano: Abel Corban

Knut Nystedt – "Laudate"

Șerban Nichifor – "Natalis Domini"
Soloists: Bogdan Andronache, Roxana Ilie, Simona Haideu, Luciana Ioan, Anna Mirescu
Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină, Bogdan Andronache and Georgian Ilie

Michael John Trotta – "Veni, Veni Emmanuel"
Soloists: Anna Mirescu and Roxana Ilie
Percussion: Simona Haideu, Florentina Pușcoi and Emanuel Pecingină

Henry Martinet, arr. Ion Marin – "Petit Papa Noel"

Mykola Leontovych – "Shchedryk"

John Rutter – "Deck the Hall"

Sabin Păutza – "A Spiritual Medley"
Piano: Abel Corban

Lloyd Larsson - "A Christmas Blessing"
Piano: Abel Corban
Percussion: Florentina Pușcoi

MADRIGAL.RO

MADRIGAL CHOIR
CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

After its first international tour in 1965 in Germany, the Madrigal Choir has performed consistently on the world's greatest stages, in famous concert halls, museums, and cathedrals, warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by all audiences. Over its 61 years of existence, the Madrigal Choir has undertaken more than 200 international tours across Europe, Asia, and the Americas.



In six decades of musical excellence, the Madrigal Choir has performed in the presence of major figures – presidents, prime ministers, and state representatives, including Charles de Gaulle, the Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Margaret Thatcher, Golda Meir, Prince Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, HRH Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg, Princess Sayako of Japan, and many others.

In recent years, the Madrigal Choir, conducted by Anna Ungureanu, has toured Portugal, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Croatia, Serbia, the United States, Peru and the Republic of Moldova. In 2018, the ensemble gave the first-ever concert at the British Museum's "Round Reading Room" in London and opened the 2019 Romania-France Cultural Season at the Dôme des Invalides in Paris.

Since 2021, the Madrigal Choir has launched the **DIPLOMACY** program, an extensive project for international communication and cultural diplomacy, singing for all the countries around the world their national anthems. These performances have been recorded at the highest artistic and technical standards and filmed in the magnificent setting of the Romanian Senate building.



Up to now, the Madrigal Choir has recorded all the national anthems of the European Union Member States, the national anthems of the UK, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, and the entire South American continent, as well as the state anthems of the United States of America, Turkey, and Israel, extending the project's reach to North America and the Middle East.

The national anthem of the Kingdom of Belgium, performed by the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin", conducted by Anna Ungureanu, was recorded and released in 2023 on July 21st – the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium.



MINISTERUL CULTURII

www.cultura.ro



Corul Național de Cameră
MADRIGAL
MARIN CONSTANTIN

www.madrigal.ro



INSTITUTUL CULTURAL ROMÂN

www.icr.ro



INSTITUT CULTUREL ROUMAIN BRUXELLES

www.icr.ro/bruxelles

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