ROMANIA IN THE SPIRIT OF TOMORROW
EXPO 2025 OSAKA

The National Chamber Choir
MADRIGAL
Marin Constantin



JAPAN

17th–26th AUGUST 2025

OSAKA——YOKOHAMA

ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE
EXPO 2025
EMBASSY OF ROMANIA IN JAPAN
MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN
ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE
ルーマニア文化会館 東京支部
うたフェスJAPAN

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.

Madrigal Choir 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 2025, the Madrigal Choir celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of its founder, Marin Constantin, through an extensive series of cultural projects taking place throughout the year. The first international tour of 2025 was held in Kazakhstan, with concerts in Astana and film recordings in the ancient city of Otrar, marking an absolute premiere in the ensemble's history.

In the summer of 2025, the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" represents Romania at the EXPO 2025 in Osaka, Kansai, Japan, and participates in the Yokohama International Chorus Festival. The Extraordinary Tour "Madrigal in Japan" marks 35 years since the ensemble's first visit to Japan under the baton of Maestro Marin Constantin, with concerts in Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa, Miyagi, Kyoto, and Hiroshima.



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.

MADRIGAL, ROMANIA'S CULTURAL AMBASSADOR AT EXPO 2025 IN OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN

The National Chamber Choir „Madrigal – Marin Constantin", conducted by Anna Ungureanu, invites audiences at EXPO 2025 on a musical journey into tomorrow with the Extraordinary Concert MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE – a world premiere concert hosted in the grand EXPO Hall. Featuring captivating works by contemporary Romanian and international composers, the performance blends innovation and tradition, showcasing the extraordinary expressive power of the human voice.

A touching and unique experience awaits the youngest visitors with MADRIGAL FOR BABIES – a gentle concert designed especially for infants (0–12 months), expectant mothers, and their families. Presented for the first time to the Japanese audiences, this heartfelt performance is based on scientific research into the positive effects of music on early development. At the Romania Pavilion at EXPO 2025, parents and future mothers are invited to sing along with the Madrigal Choir in a nurturing atmosphere filled with soothing harmonies and emotional connection.

For the lovers of timeless beauty, Madrigal brings to the Romania Pavilion at EXPO 2025, one of its signature performances, THE MUSIC OF EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE, offering the audience an exquisite selection of Renaissance masterpieces, reflecting the elegance, depth, and polyphonic brilliance of Europe's golden age of choral music.

The Romania Pavilion at EXPO 2025 is part of the thematic section "Saving Lives." Under the concept "Romania, Land of Tomorrow," the pavilion invites visitors to discover the country's natural treasures – from healing mineral waters and ancient forests to fertile lands – alongside its cutting-edge innovations in biomedicine, nanotechnology, and green energy. Through a multisensory journey across nine immersive spaces, guests can explore the fusion of tradition, science, and art inside the interactive Romanian Magic Box. The experience is brought to life by Haru, the pavilion's friendly mascot – a holographic pelican symbolizing the Danube Delta, who guides and delights visitors of all ages.

OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN
EXPO 2025

ROMANIA TOMORROW
EXPO 2025 OSAK

OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT



OANA ȚOIU

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Expo 2025 Osaka represents an unique opportunity to speak about the relationship between tradition and technology, in an aproach that favours interconnection, rather than perceiving them as two opposing forces. In a world that is fast changing, confronted with numerous challanges, some of them emerging from the natural tensions between tradition and progress, the spirit of Expo Osaka 2025 brings technology and humanity closer together, seeking new solutions and connecting lives and cultures.

Music and diplomacy share toghether a long history, supporting each other in difficult times, acting together for shaping perceptions, facilitating foreign policy goals, and promoting democracy and peace.

For over six decades, the "Madrigal Choir" has been one of Romania's most cherished cultural ambassadors. Through generations of gifted and dedicated musicians they are sharing with the world the timeless beauty of choral traditions embracing the universal language of music. The artistry of "Madrigal Choir" reflects not only the depth of Romania's heritage, but also our enduring belief in dialogue, harmony and human connection. Therefore, its presence in Osaka is more than a performance: it is an affirmation of Romania's commitment to dialogue through culture and of our belief that music transcends borders and nurtures peace. Romania's presence at Expo 2025 carries the message of openness, creativity, and collaboration. It emphasizes our conviction that the challenges of the twenty-first century require responses that combine technological and cultural creativity. The pursuit of prosperity and security cannot be dissociated from the cultivation of empathy, trust and mutual understanding.

In bringing the choral tradition of Romania to Osaka, we affirm not only the richness of our cultural traditions, but also a vision of human coexistence and exchange based on respect, coordination and the search for balance.

LIVIU JICMAN

President of the
Romanian Cultural Institute

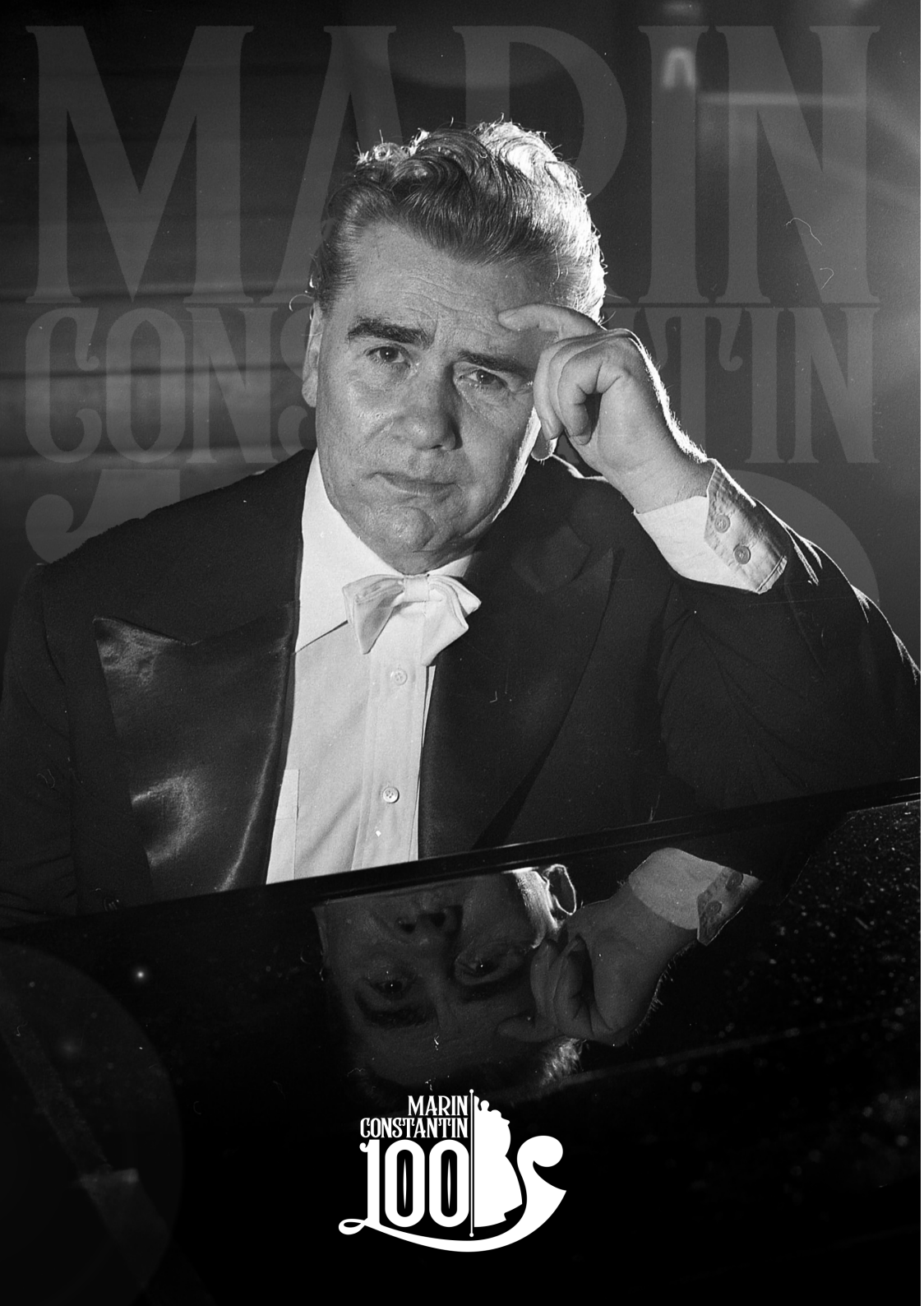
The Romanian Cultural Institute is delighted to support the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" on its tour in Japan, particularly during two significant moments: the series of concerts held at the World Expo in Osaka and the participation in the International Choral Music Festival in Yokohama.

The opening of the Romanian Cultural Institute's branch in Tokyo in November 2024 marks a catalyst for the development of cultural relations between Romania and Japan, and this exceptional tour lays the foundation for future partnerships and meaningful cultural projects in the region.

One of the strategic themes assumed by the Romanian Cultural Institute for the 2022–2026 period is the international promotion of Romanian creativity. In this context, the Madrigal Choir represents not only internationally recognized artistic excellence but also an active promoter of Romanian musical creation – from classical choral masterpieces to contemporary works and pieces inspired by Romania's authentic musical traditions.

The Madrigal Choir's participation in this tour is a celebration of intercultural dialogue through music – a universal language that brings people, communities, and cultures closer together. We are honored to be part of this initiative that brings Romanian culture closer to Japanese and international audiences, through a diverse and captivating repertoire performed with sensitivity and virtuosity.





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" „MADRIGAL: CHRISTMAS mood", „MADRIGAL: Christmas of Flowers", „MADRIGAL: Silk Road" or Anniversary Galas and Madrigal Festivals.

In 2025, at its own initiative, the Madrigal Choir is carrying out the anniversary program "MARIN CONSTANTIN 100", which includes dozens of cultural projects dedicated to celebrating the cultural legacy of the Madrigal Choir's founder.





ANNA UNGUREANU

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, the "World Choir Games" in New Zealand, and, more recently, the "European Choir Games" in Denmark.

In 2023, Anna Ungureanu 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

Manager **EMIL PANTELIMON**

Conductor **ANNA UNGUREANU**

Choir Director **SIMONA HAIDEU**

Piano **ABEL CORBAN**

International Programs Coordinator **IRINA VASILESCU**

LYRIC ARTISTS

SOPRANO
Angelica Florina Baciu
Ana-Maria Elefterescu
Simona Gabriela Haideu
Roxana-Cristina Ilie
Luciana Alina Ioan
Silvia-Cristina Maxim
Georgiana Năstac-Gorgan
Renata Dalma Petrică
Ana-Maria Szekely
Melania Turcu

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

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

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

MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

The National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin"

Conductor **ANNA UNGUREANU**
Piano **ABEL CORBAN**

PROGRAM

Ola Gjeilo – "Unicornis captivatur"

Christopher Tin – "Baba Yetu"
Piano Abel Corban
Soloists: Florentina Pușcoi, Denis Maxim | Percussion: Adrian Năstac, Emanuel Pecingină

Ēriks Ešenvalds – "Only in Sleep"
Soloist Anna Mirescu

Arr. Grigore Cudalbu – "Canção do Mar"
Soloist Denis Maxim | Percussion Emanuel Pecingină

Knut Nystedt – "Laudate"

Krzystof Penderecki – "Ije Heruvimi"

Vytautas Miškinis – "Pater noster"

John Leavitt – "Festival Sanctus"
Piano Abel Corban

Sabin Păutza – "Ofrandă copiilor lumii" (excerpt)
Solo Parts: Simona Haideu, Silvia Maxim, Ana-Maria Szekely, Sorina Popescu, Denis Maxim, Adrian Năstac

Adrian Pop – "Vine hulpe"

Alexandru Pașcanu - "Sârba pe scaun"

Mihai Moldovan – "Fluierașe și buciume"

Yoshinao Nakada – "I Found a Tiny Autumn"
Piano Abel Corban

Cornelia Tăutu - "Jocuri" (Folkloric Entertainment)
Soloist Denis Maxim | Percussion Emanuel Pecingină





MADRIGAL FOR BABIES

The National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin"

Conductor **ANNA UNGUREANU**
Music therapy expert **ANGELICA POSTU**
Piano **ABEL CORBAN**

PROGRAM

Mihai Moldovan – "Fluierașe și buciume"

Yoshinao Nakada – "I Found a Tiny Autumn"
Piano Abel Corban

Francis Pilkington – "Rest Sweet Nymphs"

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - "Sonata nr. 11" K 331 (excerpt)
Piano Abel Corban

Marin Constantin – "Cântec de leagăn"
Soloist: Anna Mirescu

Marin Constantin – "Pomișorul"
Piano Abel Corban

Johannes Brahms – "Cântec de leagăn"
Piano Abel Corban

Ēriks Ešenvalds – "Only in Sleep"
Soloist Anna Mirescu

Sabin Păutza – "My Lord, What a Morning!"
Piano Abel Corban

Harold Arlen; arr. Audrey Snyder – "Over the Rainbow"
Piano Abel Corban

MUSIC OF THE EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE

The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal – Marin Constantin”

Conductor **ANNA UNGUREANU**

PROGRAM

Francesco Landini – “Ecco la primavera”
Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină, Georgian Ilie

Erasmus Widmann – “Wohlauf ihr Gäste”

Orlando di Lasso – “Matona mia cara”

Francis Pilkington – “Rest Sweet Nymphs”

Thomas Morley - “Now is the Month of Maying”

Josquin des Prés – “El grillo”

Guillaume Costeley – “Mignonne, allons voir si la rose”

Giaches de Wert – “Un jour je m`en allais”

Anonymus - “Ay! Linda amiga”
Soloist Renata Petrică

Juan del Encina – “Fata la parte”

Baltasare Donatti – “Gagliarda”

Hans Leo Hassler – “Tanzen und springen”
Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină, Georgian Ilie



THE MADRIGAL CHOIR CULTURAL AMBASSADOR

Since its first international tour in 1965, in Germany, the Madrigal Choir has continuously performed on the great stages of the world—in renowned concert halls, museums, and cathedrals—being welcomed by audiences with the same warmth and enthusiasm. "The Madrigal Miracle!" as Wilma Vernocchi from La Scala Opera in Milan once called it.

In recent years, the events supported by the Madrigal Choir have enriched the spiritual and cultural footprint of Romanian music around the world. In 2023, the Madrigal returned to the United States after 35 years, with an extensive tour from the East Coast to the West Coast. In 2024, the Choir held four international tours, with concerts in South America and Europe—from Chișinău to Luxembourg.

In 2025, the ensemble embarked on its Asian journey through extraordinary tours in Kazakhstan and Japan.



THE DIPLOMACY PROGRAM NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF THE WORLD

Since 2021, the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" has been running the DIPLOMACY program—a large-scale project of cultural and international cooperation—offering countries around the world their national anthems, performed at the highest artistic and technical standards. Between 2021 and 2025, the Madrigal Choir recorded in the studio over 50 national anthems from across the globe, as a symbol of respect and friendship between Romania and other nations.

Within the DIPLOMACY program, the Madrigal Choir has launched extensive discographic projects such as National Anthems of the European Union Member States, National Anthems of the South American States, and National Anthems of the East Asian States. The video recordings of the National Anthems of the European Union Member States, performed by the Madrigal Choir, were released and have reached audiences all over the world.




Enjoy the music of
Madrigal!
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