MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ANNO CULTURALE Romania-Italia 2026

The National Chamber Choir MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR

MADRIGAL

MARIN CONSTANTIN



ITALY

19~26 | APRIL 2026

POMPEII ~ FLORENCE ~ BOLOGNA

ROMANIA ~ ITALY CULTURAL YEAR 2026



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.

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."

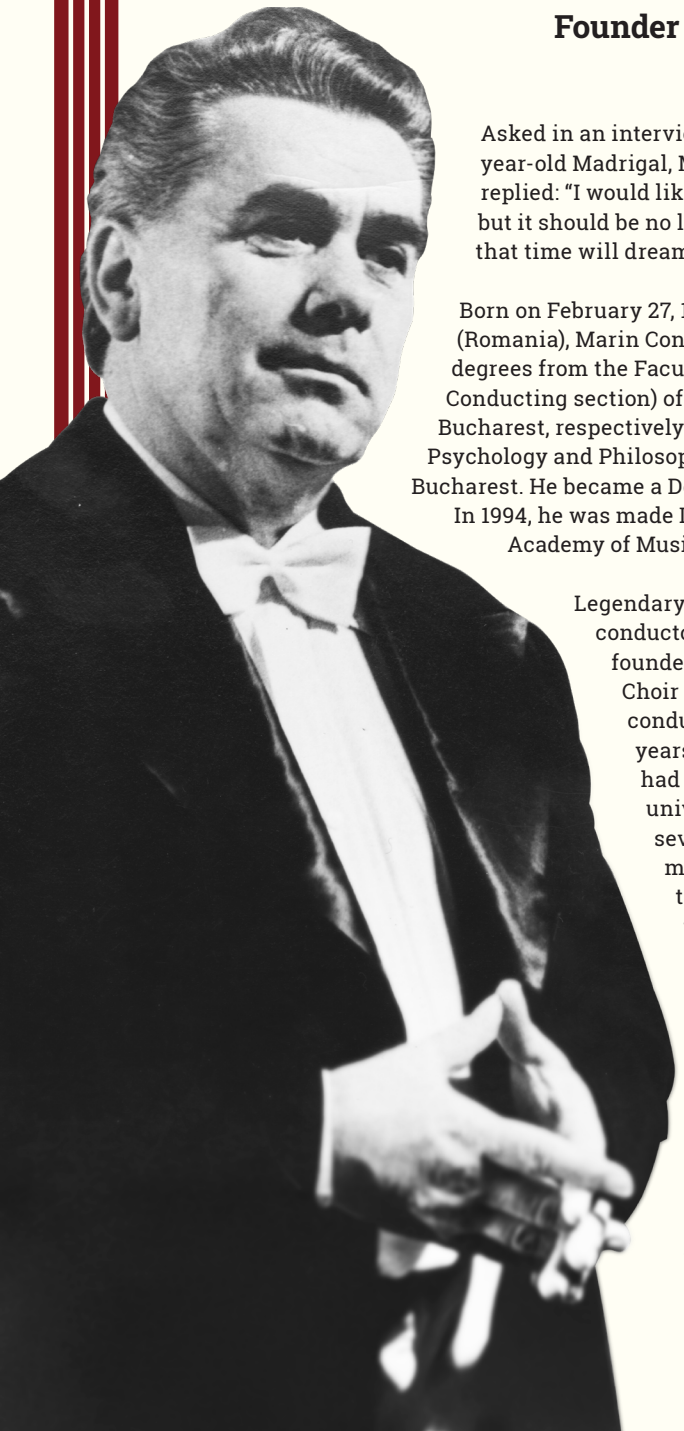
Distinguished with numerous international awards, the Madrigal Choir has graced the world's most prestigious stages, performing in thousands of concerts and shows. In November 2016, the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" has been officially recognized as Ambassador of Freedom, Hope, 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.

International tours undertaken by the Madrigal Choir in recent years have enriched the spiritual and cultural imprint of Romanian music around the world. In 2023, the Madrigal Choir performed in the United States of America after 35 years, in an extensive tour from the East Coast to the West Coast. In 2024, it held four international tours, with concerts in Peru—marking a premiere—and across Europe, in Rome, Chișinău, Luxembourg, and Brussels. The year 2025 brought Madrigal's first tour in Kazakhstan, as well as two remarkable returns after more than three decades: in Japan, at EXPO 2025 Osaka and the Yokohama International Choral Festival, and in Spain, in some of the most magnificent cathedrals and cultural venues in Mérida, Córdoba, and Madrid.

In April 2026, the Madrigal Choir, conducted by Anna Ungureanu, reunites with audiences in Italy through two extraordinary concerts in Florence and Bologna. In an absolute premiere, the site of the ancient city of Pompeii becomes the setting for a new multimedia production signed by Madrigal.

MARIN CONSTANTIN

Founder of the Madrigal Choir



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. In 2021, he was awarded 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.

In 2011, Ion Marin laid the foundations of Cantus Mundi, the largest social integration program through music in Romania, and in 2025 he officially launched the Symphonia Mundi project, dedicated to instrumental ensembles of children and youth in Romania.

MADRIGAL IN ITALY

Between April 19–26, 2026, the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin," conducted by Anna Ungureanu, will be in Italy with a series of productions in Pompeii, Florence, and Bologna, as part of the Romania–Italy Cultural Year 2026.

The Madrigal Choir reconnects with the Italian public and the Romanian community in Italy through two extraordinary sacred music concerts, hosted in some of Europe's most prestigious cultural venues: the Basilica of Santa Croce in Florence and the Basilica of San Petronio in Bologna.

A new Madrigal video is being filmed, in an absolute premiere, in the ancient city of Pompeii, a UNESCO World Heritage site, preserved almost intact after being covered by the ash of Mount Vesuvius at the beginning of our era.

The Madrigal Tour in Italy is organized by the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin," with the significant support of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Romania in the Italian Republic, the Honorary Consulate General of Romania for Tuscany, and the Consulate General of Romania in Bologna. Madrigal events are part of the official program of the Romania–Italy Cultural Year 2026.

Throughout its history, the Madrigal Choir has held a total of 23 tours in Italy, becoming a symbol of Romanian–Italian cultural diplomacy. The first tour, in 1967, at the International Musical Umbra Festival, was considered a true artistic revelation. Maestro Francesco Siciliani, one of the most influential Italian cultural managers and musicologists of the 20th century, noted at the time: "I endlessly admired the musical performance of the Madrigal Choir of the Bucharest Conservatory for its technical and artistic perfection. The ensemble, wonderfully prepared and guided by Professor Marin Constantin, can be counted among the finest chamber choirs in Europe today." Remarkable tours followed in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, and were resumed in 2021.

In 2026, the Madrigal Tour in Italy continues the Choir's tradition of international excellence and brings to audiences an exceptional selection of sacred music. Under the direction of conductor Anna Ungureanu, the Madrigal Choir reaffirms its vocation as a cultural ambassador of Romania and a messenger of peace and harmony in the world.



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 21 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 his initiative, the Madrigal Choir carried out the anniversary program "MARIN CONSTANTIN 100," celebrating the extraordinary cultural legacy of its founder, Maestro Marin Constantin.

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 was awarded 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.

Her Excellency

GABRIELA DANCĂU

Ambassador of Romania to the Italian Republic



It is a profound honour to welcome you this evening as we celebrate a moment of exceptional significance in the bilateral relations between Romania and Italy, in a year of unique importance—the Romania–Italy Cultural Year 2026.

The Cultural Year, held under the High Patronage of the President of Romania, H.E. Nicușor Dan, and the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Sergio Mattarella, unfolds through an extensive program of events dedicated to celebrating the privileged ties between our countries and honoring the shared cultural heritage that unites us. At the same time, it represents a platform of excellence to highlight creativity, our common heritage, and the values that define our European identity—serving as a driving force for artistic dialogue, cultural exchange, and academic collaboration, while opening new perspectives for strengthening bilateral relations and fostering future initiatives.

We are deeply honored to mark this milestone with an extraordinary concert by the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin," one of Romania's most distinguished and highly acclaimed cultural institutions. This event takes place in a symbolic setting of inestimable value, where universal heritage harmoniously blends with the classical spirit, offering an ideal context for celebrating the art and culture that unite us.

This evening's concert stands as a refined artistic expression of the identity and sensibility of our two nations, bringing together masterpieces of Romanian and Italian musical repertoire in an exquisite interpretation of sacred choral music.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Madrigal Choir, to our tireless Honorary Consul, Mario Polegatto, and his dedicated team, as well as to the Romanian and Italian partners whose essential contributions made the organization of this prestigious event possible. My special thanks also go to all of you who honour us with your presence. Your participation gives true meaning to this gathering, once again reaffirming the strength and depth of the cultural ties between Romania and Italy, and renewing our shared commitment to the heritage, art, and values that define us.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ANNO CULTURALE Romania-Italia 2026

MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR MADRIGAL

MARIN CONSTANTIN

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT

CONDUCTOR ANNA UNGUREANU

22 APRIL 2026 | 21⁰⁰

BASILICA OF SANTA CROCE ~ FLORENCE

ROMANIA ~ ITALY CULTURAL YEAR 2026

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SANTA CROCE OPERA

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR
MADRIGAL
MARIN CONSTANTIN

Manager **EMIL PANTELIMON**

Conductor **ANNA UNGUREANU**

Choir Director **SIMONA HAIDEU**

International Programs Coordinator **IRINA CRISTINA VASILESCU**

LYRIC ARTISTS

SOPRANO
Angelica Florina Baciu
Anna Mirescu
Simona Gabriela Haideu
Roxana-Cristina Ilie
Luciana Alina Ioan
Silvia-Cristina Maxim
Georgiana Năstac-Gorgan
Renata Dalma Petrică
Ana Georgeta Popescu
Ana-Maria Szekely

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
Dragancho Najdoski
Pecingină Emanuel

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

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT

The National Chamber Choir
„Madrigal – Marin Constantin"
Conductor ANNA UNGUREANU

PROGRAM

Carl Orff – "Incipiunt Laudes Creaturarum"

Claudio Monteverdi – "Cantate Domino"

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina – "Credo" from "Missa Brevis"

Tomas Luis de Victoria – "Ave Maria"

Bernardino Zanetti – "Pater noster"

Francisc Hubic – "Cuvine-se cu adevărat"
Soloist: Denis Maxim

Anton Pann, arr. Dan Mihai Goia – "Tatăl nostru"

Gheorghe Popescu Brănești, arr. Dan Mihai Goia – "Privegheați și vă rugați"
Soloist: Anna Mirescu

Dan Dediu – "Axion"

Gheorghe Danga, arr. Petru Simionescu – "Fie, Doamne, mila Ta..."

Corneliu Cezar – "Flăcări și roți" (excerpts)
Soloists: Denis Maxim, Silviu Rusu | Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină

Grigore Cudalbu - "Festum primaverae" (excerpts)
Solo passage: Renata Petrică | Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină
Spoken passages: Luciana Ioan, Ana-Maria Szekely, Radu Isăcescu, Bogdan Andronache, Denis Maxim, Dragoș Petrică

Marin Constantin - "Florilegiu bizantin ortodox non-canonic" (excerpts)
Soloist: Denis Maxim | Percussion: Emanuel Pecingină

ROMANIAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IN UNIVERSAL ANCIENT SPACES

The large-scale videographic project "Romanian Contemporary Music in Universal Ancient Spaces" was initiated by the Madrigal Choir in 2023 as part of the anniversary program Madrigal 60. By harmonizing seemingly divergent concepts, the project highlights ancient cultural spaces through the innovative sounds of contemporary music. Through an unexpected perspective, the Madrigal Choir offers a new vision of universal heritage, as well as fresh opportunities to explore the works of contemporary Romanian composers.

The videos in the series "Romanian Contemporary Music in Universal Ancient Spaces" are produced by the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin," conducted by Anna Ungureanu, and directed by Emil Pantelimon.





SARMIZEGETUSA REGIA

FLAMES AND WHEELS

Produced at the end of 2023, the first episode of the series brings the echoes of Madrigal's music to the emblematic Dacian site of Sarmizegetusa Regia. The video of Corneliu Cezar's work "Flames and Wheels" was released on National Culture Day, January 15, 2024, in partnership with the National Heritage Institute in Romania.



MACHU PICCHU

CHORAL SUITE FROM THE LAND OF OAȘ

Produced in March 2024, the second episode features the Madrigal Choir at over 2,400 meters above sea level, in the archaeological site of the ancient Inca "lost city," Machu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The video of the score "Choral Suite from the Land of Oaș" by Romanian composer Dariu Pop was produced with the support of the Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Peru, the Ministry of Culture, and the Romanian Cultural Institute.



PANTHEON
FESTUM HIBERNUM

Filmed in October 2024, the third episode of the multimedia series brings the Madrigal Choir to the Pantheon in Rome, a marvel of universal architecture. The video of the extensive work "Festum Hibernum", composed by Romanian composer Alexandru Pașcanu, was produced with the support of the Embassy of Romania in Italy.



OTRAR
DANCES

Filmed in May 2025 in the steppes of Turkistan, the fourth episode captures the Madrigal Choir amidst the ruins of the ancient city of Otrar — a ghost fortress with a millennia-old history, located on the famous Silk Road. The video of the piece "Dances (Folkloric Divertimento)", composed by Cornelia Tăutu, was produced with the significant support of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian Cultural Institute, the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



MÉRIDA
EPHEMERIDES

Filmed in the fall of 2025 at one of Spain's most important UNESCO sites, the fifth episode features the Madrigal Choir amidst the more than 2,000-year-old remains of the Roman Theatre in Mérida. The video of the innovative work "Ephemerides" by composer Anatol Vieru was produced with the support of the Ministry of Culture, the Embassy of Romania in the Kingdom of Spain, and the Consortium of the Monumental City of Mérida, and it was released on the occasion of National Culture Day, January 15, 2026.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ANNO CULTURALE Romania-Italia 2026

MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER CHOIR MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT

CONDUCTOR ANNA UNGUREANU

25 APRIL 2026 | 19:30

BAZILICA OF SAN PETRONIO ~ BOLOGNA

ROMANIA ~ ITALY CULTURAL YEAR 2026

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BASILICA di SAN PETRONIO



Enjoy the music
Madrigal!

TEAM

Honorary Director of the
National Chamber Choir
„Madrigal - Marin Constantin”
Founder President of the
Cantus Mundi National Program
Ion Marin

Manager of the National Chamber Choir
„Madrigal – Marin Constantin”
Emil Pantelimon

Conductor of the
National Chamber Choir
“Madrigal – Marin Constantin”
Artistic Director of the Cantus Mundi
National Program
Anna Ungureanu

Director of the Cantus Mundi
National Program
Leila Popovici

Choir Director
Simona Haideu

International Programs Coordinator
Irina Cristina Vasilescu

Communication Department Coordinator
Alina Marin

Chief Accountant
Elena Cursaru

Trainers & Conductors
Răzvan Apetrei, Angelica Florina Baciu, Maria Cristina Crăiţa Ghilerdea, Elena Iorgulescu, Antoaneta Luchian, Mădălina Maxim, Silvia Cristina Maxim, Ștefania Pârlitu, Emanuel Pecingină, Bogdan Perţea, Renata Dalma Petrică, Ana-Maria Rusu, Maria - Minodora Vișan, Del Vasilache

Percussion Trainers
Zoli Toth, Bogdan Pop

Blockflote Trainer
Petra Hriban

Project Organization
Camelia Andrei, Ana-Maria Andone, Eli Arghir, Alexandru Bacoi, Adriana Bîrsan, Maria-Elena Bratosin, Rada Bucur, Ioana Budescu, Mihai Cătescu, Ioan Cârciumaru, Ana Maria Ciutu, Narcisa Bianca Chibulcuțean, Nicoleta Dan, Silvana Dulamă, Flavius Dumitrică, Ana-Carmen Dragoș, Felicia Gogoașă, Ana Ignat, Isabela Iordănescu, Valentin Ivan, Camelia-Anca Leață-Oțelea, Monica Lup, Carmen Macavei, Alec-Iulian Milea, Daniel Milencovici, Adelina Moldoveanu, Carmen-Iuliana Marin, Maria Miu, Diana Raluca Niculae, Patricia Nițu, Mariana Ochenatu, Cătălina Oprea, Alexandra Pâslea, Tatiana Popa, Alina Proorocu, Adina Radu, Bogdan-Cătălin Radu, Daniela Rusu, Cristina Stan, Alina Stoian, Petruța Stoian, Mălina Șerban, Mariana Tăloi, Anamaria Teodorescu, Raluca Teodorescu, Virginia Tutoveanu, Anca Vasile, Roxana Zaharia

Multimedia
Andreea Barbu, Mircea Constantinescu, Daniel Feraru, Timoteea Gabor, Rareș Morogan, Zsolt Portik, Iustina Soare, Andrei Țoneș, Teodora Ungureanu

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ANNO CULTURALE Romania-Italia 2026

MADRIGAL MARIN CONSTANTIN

Scan and read!
ENGLISH

Scaneză și citește!
ROMÂNĂ

Scansiona e scopri!
ITALIANO

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EMBASSY OF ROMANIA IN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

GENERAL CONSULATE OF ROMANIA IN BOLOGNA

POMPEII
PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO DI POMPEI

F.E.C.

COMUNE DI FIRENZE

SANTA CROCE OPERA

BASILICA di SAN PETRONIO

ROMANIA — ITALY CULTURAL YEAR 2026