

NEW YORK ★ WASHINGTON ★ CHICAGO ★ SEATTLE

★ THE MAGIC OF WINTER ★  
*The*  
*Romanian*

# MADRIGAL CHOIR

★★★  
**JUBILEE TOUR**

NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> TO DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



**NEW YORK:** Nov 26<sup>th</sup> @ St John the Divine Cathedral & Nov 27<sup>th</sup> @ Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center  
**WASHINGTON DC:** Nov 28<sup>th</sup> @ The National Cathedral & Nov 29<sup>th</sup> @ The U.S. Congress  
**CHICAGO:** Nov 30<sup>th</sup> @ St. James Lutheran Church    **SEATTLE:** Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Town Hall Seattle

A TOUR ORGANIZED WITH THE SUPPORT  
OF THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF CULTURE



MINISTERUL CULTURII



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*The Romanian*

# MADRIGAL CHOIR

*Principal Conductor:* Anna Ungureanu  
*Second conductor:* Cezar-Mihail Verlan

**Soprano:**

Baciu Angelica Florina  
Elefterescu Ana-Maria  
Haideu Simona Gabriela  
Ilie Roxana - Cristina  
Ioan Luciana Alina  
Maxim Silvia-Cristina  
Năstac - Gorgan Georgiana  
Nicolau Ramona Georgiana  
Petrică Renata Dalma  
Spireanu Alexandra

**Alto:**

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

**Piano:**

Abel Corban

**Tenor:**

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

**ROMANIA – UNITED STATES**  
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Celebrating  
Romanian  
Talent

★ 2023

**Bass:**

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



## A TOUR DEDICATED TO ROMANIA'S NATIONAL DAY

*The Madrigal Choir crossed the borders of Europe in 1969 and performed for the first time in the United States of America. With an impressive history, the Madrigal Choir has been an important actor on the stage of cultural diplomacy for Romania.*

*Today we will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> year since the founding of the Madrigal Choir and the 35<sup>th</sup> year since its last appearance in the USA with an anniversary tour in several cities. Each event will be dedicated to Romania's National Day celebrated on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will reflect the high artistic values that the Madrigal Choir has been stating for its whole existence.*

*The activity of the Choir is inextricably linked to the national program of social integration through music - Cantus Mundi, which has so far supported several tens of thousands of children.*

*The Madrigal Choir is one of the strongest cultural links between our country and the world. The Romanian Ministry of Culture proudly supports the Madrigal Choir as a reputed ambassador of our cultural values in the United States.*



**Raluca Turcan**  
Romanian  
Minister of Culture

## A CELEBRATION OF THE ROMANIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

*Welcome to a unique concert! A concert that I am sure you will remember for a long time.*

*The Madrigal Choir is one of the most famous and admired cultural institutions of Romania. Since its establishment, 60 years ago, it has represented Romania in the most prestigious international contexts as a first-rate emblem of Romanian culture and a prodigious vector of Romania's cultural diplomacy.*

*With impeccable musical standards of interpretation, a dramatic, unforgettable presence and an extensive repertoire, the Madrigal Choir has conquered the most important musical stages of the world.*

*Its repertoire is directed towards the European Renaissance, Gregorian and Byzantine chant, traditional carols, but also towards classical and contemporary Romanian and universal compositions.*

*This year we mark not only 60 years since the foundation of the Madrigal Choir but 35 years since its last American appearance, with an anniversary tour between November 24 to December 4, in four major U.S. cities: New York, Washington DC, Chicago and Seattle.*

*This tour is also a masterful exhibit of the theme chosen for this year's public diplomacy efforts by the Embassy of Romania to the United States - "Romania and the United States: A Partnership for the Future. Celebrating Romanian Talent". Romania and the United States are close friends and allies not only in fields like security, energy, economy and education but we also have strong cultural ties.*



**Andrei Muraru**  
Ambassador of Romania  
to the United States

## A COMEBACK TO CELEBRATE



**Dorian Branea**  
Director,  
Romanian Cultural  
Institute in New York

The return of the Madrigal Choir to the United States after thirty years is the most important musical event of Romanian cultural diplomacy in 2023 and undoubtedly one of Romania's great projects of international cultural cooperation in recent years.

To be sure, for the Romanian Cultural Institute in New York the jubilee tour of this legendary Romanian cultural institution, known and admired on all continents for more than half a century, is an unprecedented effort, both in terms of the massive deployment of artistic and managerial forces and its pan-American scope.

This series of recitals of the highest artistic level, performed in prestigious American halls by one of the world's great choral ensembles, demonstrates the vitality of Romanian-American cultural relations and the importance of culture in the transatlantic exchanges, which has translated in the ever-increasing presence of Romanian artists in visible American contexts. We are honored to co-organize, with our partners at home and in the United States, the much-awaited American comeback of the Madrigal Choir, and we hope that the encounter with one of Romania's most powerful cultural brands will offer a memorable and inspiring experience as well as an invitation to more Romanian discoveries.

## MADRIGAL CHOIR: CELEBRATING ITS SIXTH DECADE OF EXISTENCE



**Emil Pantelimon**  
Manager of the  
National Chamber  
Choir "Madrigal-Marin  
Constantin"

We stand before a historic event that must be recorded and will be talked about for a long time to come. The Madrigal Choir's sixth decade of existence marks its sixth tour of the United States.

If in 1969 President Richard Nixon, welcomed in Romania to the sound of the Madrigal, lit the spark of the choir's transatlantic tours, opening the doors of the highest diplomatic institutions and bringing a new spirit, unparalleled in the sphere of the communist bloc, today, after 54 years, Romania's cultural brand returns to the USA and resumes a tradition interrupted 35 years ago.

Madrigal brings harmony, spreads the spirit of quality music and represents the pillar of professionalism and spirituality with which Romania is represented in the world at the highest level. Zoe Dumitrescu Buşulenga said:

*"What I found extraordinary in New York, when I listened to them, was the effect Madrigal had on the United Nations. The secretary at the time, Mr. U Thant, a man of great subtlety, of great intellectual refinement, was absolutely stupefied by so much beauty, so much mastery, so much craftsmanship, so much technical perfection and, at the same time, so much potential for thought involved in a music which, apparently, was of geometric simplicity. And you should know that, after that, Romania's presence at the United Nations had a more prominent role and, I would say, efficiency. It was the merit of the Madrigal..."*

On this note, allow me to express my joy, honour and responsibility to continue the mission of the Madrigal phenomenon started 54 years ago. In collaboration with H.E. Ambassador Andrei Muraru, I see an essential strategic partnership for Romania on the territory of the most powerful state in the world, through which the figure of Romania will be given added prominence.

# MADRIGAL | A BRIEF HISTORY

- 1963, April 11:** Maestro Marin Constantin establishes the Madrigal Choir.
- 1963, July 7:** The first concert of the Madrigal Choir takes place in the city of Braşov, Romania.
- 1965** The Madrigal Choir goes on its first international tour, at Halle in Germany.
- 1968** The Madrigal Choir sings carols for the first time in communist Romania.
- 1968** Radio Free Europe starts broadcasting the Christmas carols of the Madrigal Choir, an album forbidden in Romania at the time, for Christmas.
- 1969** The first tour outside of Europe of the Madrigal Choir takes place in the United States.
- 1969** The Madrigal Choir performs a concert during the first visit of an American president in Bucharest, Richard Nixon.
- 1978** The year in which during just one season the Madrigal Choir crosses the Atlantic ocean twice.
- 1992** Marin Constantin receives the title of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, awarded by Federico Mayor, General Director of UNESCO.
- 2011** The creator of the Madrigal Choir, Maestro Marin Constantin, passes away.
- 2012** Maestro Ion Marin becomes Honorary Director of the Madrigal Choir and lays the foundations of the Cantus Mundi National Program.
- 2015** The Madrigal Choir takes the name of its founder and becomes The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin”.
- 2016** The Madrigal Choir is officially recognized as Ambassador of Freedom, Hope and Peace, by the United Nations.
- 2017** The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” goes on its first tour in Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2018** The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” inaugurates the Queen Victoria Library at the British Museum in concert and performs a live recital in the BBC studios.
- 2019** The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” performs with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, both conducted by Maestro Ion Marin.
- 2021, November 27-30:** International tour of the National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin”, conducted by Anna Ungureanu in Italy.
- 2022, March 3:** The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin”, conducted by Cezar Verlan, releases the video recording of the National Anthem of Ukraine - “Ukraine is not dead yet” / “Ще не вмерла Україна”, performed with Tania Kolotylo, a young refugee from Ukraine.
- 2023, February 28:** The Extraordinary Performance “Madrigal 60”, conducted by Anna Ungureanu, at the National Theatre “I. L. Caragiale” Bucharest.
- 2023, March 1:** The Romanian Senate and the National Chamber Choir “Madrigal – Marin Constantin” officially inaugurate the “Madrigal – Marin Constantin Galleries” at the Palace of Parliament.
- 2023, May 24-27:** The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” launches at the Bookfest International Book Fair the biographical volume “The Great Book of Madrigal” by Mădălin Guruianu.





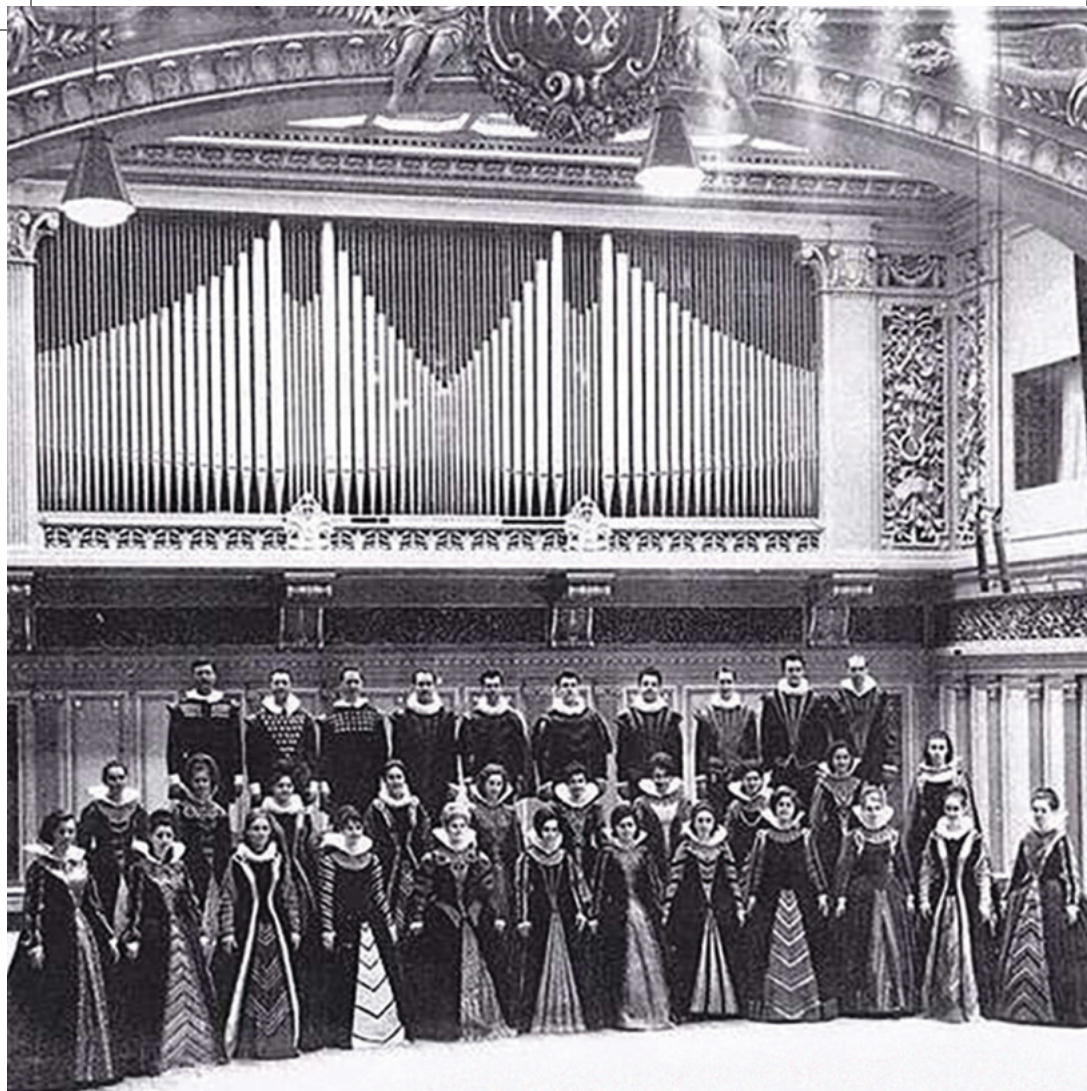
# 20 KEY FACTS

1. *A member of NATO since 2004 and of the European Union (EU) since 2007. Romania has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest population of the EU's 27 Member States. In 2019, a Romanian became NATO Deputy Secretary General, the first from an Eastern European country to hold this office.*
2. *The most pro-American country in the European Union: 80% of Romanians have positive feelings toward the USA. Romania is a champion state in promoting the transatlantic relationship.*
3. *Romania and the United States of America established diplomatic relations in 1880.*
4. *Up to one million Romanian-Americans live and work in the United States. The largest communities of Romanians are in California, Florida, New York, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, Texas, Arizona, and Washington.*
5. *Romania and the United States celebrated in 2022 the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the launch of their Strategic Partnership. Since the launch, Romanian-American relations have evolved spectacularly, with strong ties forged in the military and security cooperation and increased economic cooperation.*
6. *Romania is a core partner in protecting the U.S. and NATO allies against ballistic missile threats. In 2016, the missile shield became operational at the Naval Support Facility Deveselu (Romania), the first U.S. Navy base to be established in almost 30 years since Naval Station Everett in Washington (1987).*
7. *Romania has taken in a large number of refugees from Ukraine. More than 6 million refugees have fled to Romania since the onset of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Romania has the longest border with Ukraine of all EU and NATO member states: 381.4 miles.*

# ABOUT ROMANIA

8. Romania meets the 2% GDP defense spending NATO commitment. Recently, Romania decided to increase its defense budget to 2.5% of GDP. Romania is a steadfast ally of the United States: Romanian and U.S. armed forces have fought side by side, in Afghanistan and Iraq, with all the tragedy and accomplishments this entailed.
9. Romania sits across the best land and sea routes connecting the EU with the Balkan Peninsula, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the Middle East; it has the largest port on the Black Sea (Constanța), as well as the European waterway connection via the Danube River, being a real gateway to the European market.
10. A pillar of political and economic stability in a complex region. The latest data from 2020 show that Romania's GDP per capita in purchasing power standards reached 72% of the European Union average, up from 44% in 2007, the highest growth rate of all EU member states.
11. Romania has become a model for the fight against corruption in the region. In 2019, the former chief prosecutor of Romania's National Anticorruption Directorate became the first European Chief Prosecutor.
12. Offers numerous opportunities for U.S. partners and investors in all sectors of a diverse and dynamic economy: energy, automotive, agriculture, IT, transportation, infrastructure and real estate. Significant U.S. investments in Romania: Exxon, Ford Motor, Honeywell, Oracle, Microsoft, IBM, etc.
13. Romania is the leader in Europe and ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the world, with the fastest broadband internet connection.
14. Automotive sector: Romania is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest vehicle manufacturing base in Central and Eastern Europe.
15. Romania and the USA were recorded as the first oil producers in the world, 150 years ago. The first Romanian-American oil company was set up in 1903. Romania is the biggest producer of oil and natural gas in Central and Eastern Europe.
16. Romania is one of the few countries in the world with a complete nuclear cycle. Romania will be the first country to build a next-generation nuclear power station using U.S.-designed small modular reactor (SMR) technology.
17. The most powerful laser in Europe and the second worldwide was built in Romania.
18. The Romanian language is derived from Latin (same as Italian, French, Spanish, or Portuguese).
19. English is used as the primary foreign language by Romanians, and many have good language skills.
20. An exciting and authentic tourist destination - one of Europe's last windows to the past, an eclectic mix between modern and old Europe; pristine natural environments.





*The* **60**  
MADRIGAL CHOIR YEARS OF  
UNINTERRUPTED  
EXISTENCE



The National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” symbolizes Romanian and universal musical life. Since its founding by the legendary musician and conductor Marin Constantin (1925–2011) in 1963, the Madrigal Choir performed hundreds acclaimed concerts worldwide, considered an authentic Romanian cultural brand. It is one of the world standards of chamber choral music, recognized by its unique concept, defined by its specific sonority, stereophonic location on stage and impressive costumes.

In 60 years of uninterrupted existence, thousands of concerts and events and almost 100 records, the Madrigal Choir has made the most effective form of cultural diplomacy for Romania, wrote history in the field of choral music in the world, won trophies and international distinctions, broke canons, sang heavenly on impressive scenes in major cities of the world, but also in cultural homes in small communities in Romania, was applauded, with the same emotion, in the Jiu Valley and Covent Garden, London.

In the 1960s, during the Communist era, which pushed Romania into deep isolation, Madrigal was a progressive choral music laboratory as it had never been heard before. They experienced the sounds of a century ago, folk works, performed from splendid Byzantine songs to contemporary Romanian music. The carols sung by Madrigal, in full oppressive regime, entered the collective consciousness of Romanians as a symbol of freedom.

In November 2016, the National Chamber Choir “Madrigal - Marin Constantin” was 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 of Religion, Peace and Security.

## MARIN CONSTANTIN – FOUNDER OF THE “MADRIGAL” CHAMBER CHOIR

Asked in an interview how he would like the Madrigal Choir to look like at 100 years, the Maestro Marin Constantin replied: “I would like it to be as I still dream of it, but not to be less than those who will live then and will dream of it.”

Born on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1925, in Urleta, Romanian Prahova county, Marin Constantin graduated in 1949 from the Music Conservatory (Choral Conducting Department), as well as the Faculty of Pedagogy, Psychology and Philosophy of the University of Bucharest and became a Doctor of Musicology in 1985. In 1994 he was honored with the Doctor Honoris Causa distinction of the “Gh. Dima” Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca.

Marin Constantin founded the Chamber Choir “Madrigal” on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1963, and was its conductor and manager until his retirement in 2002. He performed with the Madrigal Choir almost 4,000 concerts in Romania and around the world and released over 80 music albums. Marin Constantin received a multitude of awards, decorations and distinctions, being also the only Romanian honored with the title of “Goodwill Ambassador” of UNESCO (1992). Marin Constantin passed away on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.





1964: The first modern concert costumes



Authentic Romanian folk costumes used in over 100 concerts in the USA in 1984 and 1988



2018: Costumes inspired from the interwar period of Romania



2023: Period costumes created by scenographer Iuliana Gherghescu



## ION MARIN

**Honorary Director of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal - Marin Constantin"**  
**Founder President of the Cantus Mundi National Program**

An important personality of the international music scene, Ion Marin is one of the few conductors who have achieved worldwide fame in the symphonic and also in opera areas. At both national and European level, Ion Marin is officially recognized for the valuable services brought to the Romanian culture, art and also to the Romanian image in the world, as well as for the social dimension of his impact in society. From 2020, Ion Marin is also Prof. Univ. of the prestigious Mozarteum University in Salzburg, the coordinator of the choral conducting department "Claudio Abbado" and the artistic coordinator of its concert activity.

In 2021, Ion Marin was decorated by the French Republic with the Order of Arts and Letters in the rank of Knight (Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) for his "contribution and commitment to the service of culture". In the same year, Ion Marin received the role of Honorary Consul of Romania at Lugano, Switzerland, as an official recognition of his permanent involvement in strengthening diplomatic relations in his exceptional career of almost 40 years of artistic performance. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Ion Marin conducted the first concert of the Mozarteum Academic Orchestra, an orchestra founded at his initiative.

# ANNA UNGUREANU

**Principal conductor of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal-Marin Constantin"**

**Artistic director of the Cantus Mundi National Program**

The professional experience gained working with the founder of the Madrigal Choir, Maestro Marin Constantin, near whom she spent almost 9 years, recommends her as a disciple and continuator of the legendary musician. With a PhD in music (2009), Anna Ungureau is the principal conductor of the National Chamber Choir "Madrigal – Marin Constantin" since 2014 and, also, holds the position of Artistic Director of the National Program Cantus Mundi, a program initiated by the conductor Ion Marin.

Specializing in conducting art under the close direction of renowned musicians Marin Constantin and Ion Marin, Anna Ungureau has given concerts in many countries in Europe and Asia. In addition to her impressive career as a choral conductor, she is also a trainer who inspires future generations of choir conductors in Romania, regularly giving courses within the Cantus Mundi National Program.

In 2022, Anna Ungureau was awarded the "Marin Constantin" Prize for Excellence in Music, and she was elected Romania's representative to the World Choir Council, the governing body of the world choral organization INTERKULTUR.





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 **Madrigal**  
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