



**Transilvania
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NEWSLETTER

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VISIT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MOLDOVA TO BRAȘOV

On 13 January 2020, Transilvania University of Brasov hosted the delegation of the Institutional Strategic Development Council (CDSI) of the Technical University of Moldova (UTM), at the invitation of the Rector of the institution in Brasov, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Doctor Honoris Causa of UTM and President of CDSI-UTM.



The delegation, led by the Rector of UTM, Prof. Dr. Hab. Viorel Bostan, also included Prof. Dr. Hab. Larisa Bugaian, UTM Vice-Rector for financial affairs and international relations, Dinu Șurcanu, former UTM Vice-Rector for computerization, relationship with the socio-economic environment, image and communication, Prof. Dr. Maria Gheorghită, CDSI-UTM secretary, Victor Catan, CDSI member, Veaceslav Suthevich, CDSI member.



The thematic meeting aimed at the exchange of experience on dual education was joined by Werner Braun, President of the German Economic Club of Brasov and a number of senior officials of the

Gagauz Autonomous Territorial Unit: Olesya Tanasoglo, Vice-President of the Executive Committee on Social Affairs, Natalia Kristeva, Head of the Directorate-General for Education, Ivan Korioglo, Head of the Directorate-General for Construction and Infrastructure and Natalia Ciuvlascaia, Head of the Directorate-General for Economic Development.



The visit agenda consisted of the on-the-go meeting of CDSI-UTM, which was preceded by a series of visits to top companies in Brasov: the R&D Division of Vitesco Technologies, Preh Romania auto component manufacturer and Quin Romania, visits aimed at opening up new opportunities and directions of collaboration with the business environment. The actual meeting of CDSI was chaired by the Rector of the university in Brasov, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, and included in the agenda topics such as the proper functioning of UTM in 2020, as well as strategic issues for the efficient development of engineering higher education.

Synthesis by Lecturer Dr. Victor BRICIU
Photo Source: utm.md

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RINGING IN THE CHINESE NEW YEAR AT THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Every year, Chinese people everywhere celebrate for two weeks the most important festive moment of their lives, namely the transition to the Chinese New Year. According to the Chinese zodiac, this year is under the patronage of the Metal Rat, a year that is expected to be one full of happiness and achievements on all levels.



To mark this moment of passage as an auspicious one, on 23 January 2020, the Confucius Institute in Brasov hosted a festive event organised by both parties, namely the Romanian one, represented by the students of the Chinese program of the Faculty of Letters, and the Chinese one, through Chinese students from the University of International Studies in Xi'an who study the Romanian language in Brasov.



The artistic program included several special moments, each of them bringing a smile on the lips of the audience present. The interactive and challenging part took the form of mini-contests with prizes in which spectators were also involved, to the delight of the children, but also of the adults present; art was also brought to the fore by intertwining calligraphy, drawing and piano harmonious notes, thus creating a harmonious and pleasant syncretism.

Afterwards, the performance of the Romanian-Chinese bilingual version of the well-known hit "Love in linden trees" surprised and amused the audience. The moment of maximum sensitivity was represented by the mastery with which the young pianist Li Juntong, a talented student of Professor Corina Ibănescu, brought to the attention of the audience some classical piano pieces.



The artistic moments continued with dynamism, in a moment of modern dance prepared by the Chinese students alongside the Romanian students. In this vein, by the end of the evening, a currently popular song in China was intoned, a song that speaks of memories and unforgettable moments that are worth cherishing. Thus, the final photos of the students involved in the event together with Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of Transilvania University in Brasov, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian Locksmith and Susan Sun, the two directors of the Confucius Institute in Brasov, remained testimonies of an evening that certainly gave a good start to the Chinese New Year.

Of course, according to tradition, the public then enjoyed delicious dishes brought directly from Chinese cuisine, and, among bamboo sticks and rice noodles, people mirthfully wished one another:

新年快乐! "A Happy New Year!"

Luiza STEINESZ

Master's Studies of Romanian Language and
Literature

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THE FACULTY OF MUSIC FROM BRASOV TO THE ROMANIAN CULTURAL WEEK IN SUDAN

At the invitation of the Romanian Embassy in Sudan, a group of students from the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Braşov held a series of concerts within the *Romanian Cultural Week*, celebrating the National Day of Romania.



The students of the Faculty of Music – Mihaela Bălan, Andreea Ciobota, Imola Fazakas, Alin Man, Ioana Mihăila, Marius Pop, Bianca Popescu and Alina Voicu, gave a series of recitals under the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Claudia Şuteu. The whole project was of high class due to the active involvement of the Rector, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, who stood by the students in Sudan, of his excellency Dragoş Şerbănescu, the Romanian Ambassador in Sudan and of course of the Dean of the Faculty of Music, Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda.



Music is a universal language, this being proven again in the performances held in Khartoum, students being admired and loved for their warm voices, but also for the professionalism that they evinced.

The experience in Sudan was special, the unanimous opinion of the delegation being that we are particularly privileged for the conditions in Romania. We were deeply impressed by the Sudanese costumes and hospitality. The Nile cruise was another point of interest, as we were at the confluence of the White Nile and Blue Nile, exactly at the formation of the famous river. The Romanian music rang out everywhere, including during the camel ride, when the Sudanese were extremely delighted with the Romanian folklore and, although not speaking English, they replied to us with music, this time Sudanese.



His Excellency, Ambassador Dragoş Şerbănescu stood by us at Capital FM for the radio interview, where the broadcast, planned short, was extended, the Romanian music being listened to with intense emotions. There has been talk of the Romanian customs and traditions inscribed in the UNESCO heritage, His Excellency supporting us and listening to us very fondly.

The Romanian delegation in Sudan was successfully represented by the Faculty of Music, the celebration of the National Day taking place this time in an exotic setting, in temperatures above 30 degrees Celsius.

Dr. Claudia ŞUTEU
Assoc. Teacher Faculty of Music

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BOTOND SZŐCS, A GREAT PIANIST - MARATHON CONCERT SERIES IN GREAT BRITAIN

The series of concerts that the Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR) in London organizes in partnership with St. Martin in the Fields, a well-known music scene in central London, continued on Monday, 27 January 2020 with a recital offered by the Romanian exceptional young pianist Botond Szőcs.



The musician presented to an audience of over 400 people a recital that featured works signed by Ciprian Porumbescu and Frédéric Chopin. The recital began with Chopin's four ballads - one-movement piano pieces, composed between 1831 and 1843. They are considered to be some of the most challenging pieces in the standard piano repertoire. The concert ended with Ciprian Porumbescu's Ballad, a piano arrangement achieved by the pianist Botond Szőcs himself. The final applause was commensurate with the value of the pianist's musical program, for minutes at a time he was acclaimed by the spectators in the parish church of the British Royal House.



Following the event in London, the next day, Tuesday 28 January, in Manchester at the Z-arts hall, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin, Botond Szőcs, presented a program that included works by composers Ciprian Porumbescu, Sergei Rachmaninov and Frédéric Chopin. The Manchester concert was attended by members of the diplomatic corps and

classical music-lovers, both locals and Romanians settled in Manchester.

The pianist Botond Szőcs' tour continued on Wednesday, 29 January, in Edinburgh, at Stockebridge Church. A wonderful evening, an enchanted evening, the spectators applauding for a long time the young Romanian pianist's performance.

Botond Szőcs, aged of 24, has made his mark and a name for himself in the music world thanks to his unmistakable energetic temperament. He is a student of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Brasov, in the class of the famous professor Stela Drăgulin.

Notable moments in Botond Szőcs's pianistic ascent are his appearances in concerts and recitals, both at home and abroad, including tours in Great Britain, Italy, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Montenegro, Moldova, Cuba, Vietnam and China. Everywhere, his artistic performance captivated the audience as an "electrifying, shatteringly profound performance" and received appreciation from critics.



For the Manchester and Edinburgh concerts, ICR London collaborated excellently with the Consulate General of Romania in Manchester represented by Consul Andreea Berechet and with the Consulate General of Romania in Edinburgh, represented by Consul Anton Barbu.

Following this marathon of concerts given in just 3 days, we have the necessary arguments to start discussions, in the next period, with music festivals in the UK, as well as with British orchestras for future collaborations with the pianist Botond Szőcs.

Lucian DIACONU
Music Programmes Coordinator - ICR London

INTERMEZZO QUARTET AT THE GENERAL CONSULATE OF ROMANIA IN BARCELONA

With a rich artistic activity, Intermezzo Quartet is the outcome of a beautiful collaboration between three students of the Faculty of Music – Transilvania University of Brasov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alina Nauncef – violin teacher within the same higher education institution.



The Quartet set out to bring the soul of Romanian music all over the world, choosing a repertoire rich in musical works with folk influences and also classical works from the universal repertoire.

In 2019, the Romanian Embassy in the Kingdom of Spain invited Intermezzo Quartet to perform four concerts in Madrid, Albacete, Zaragoza and Barcelona. Following the success and appreciation for their artistic act, the quartet received a new invitation from the Consulate General of Romania in Barcelona, where they celebrated the National Day of Romania by giving a concert in the hall "Domenech y Muntaner", in the prestigious architectural complex

"Reciento Modernista de Sant Pau", in Barcelona, on 28 November 2019.

The moment of virtuosity was greatly appreciated by the officials invited to the event, high-ranking officials who belong to the local, civil and military administration. The consular corps accredited in Barcelona was also present at the recital held by the quartet.



The collaboration between the Romanian Embassy in the Kingdom of Spain and Transilvania University of Brasov is one of the university's internationalization strategies, which aims to increase Romania's prestige abroad.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alina NAUNCEF
Faculty of Music

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THE FACULTY OF MUSIC IN THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

Between 1 and 9 December 2019, the Romanian Embassy in the Republic of Cuba organized a series of events on the occasion of celebrating the National Day of Romania. During these events, students from the Faculty of Music gave recitals, under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Rucsanda Mădălina, Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin and Assist. Alexandra Belibou, PhD Candidate. The concert dedicated to the celebration of Romania's National Day was attended by ministers and ambassadors of diplomatic missions in the Republic of Cuba. The exceptional performance delivered by the students of Transilvania University in Brasov ended in standing ovations, eulogistic appreciation and invitations to perform concerts in other countries. The possibilities for further cooperation were discussed with the representatives of the embassies.



During the homage events occasioned by the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the founding of the city of Havana, the artistic act with the theme "Musical Dialogue Romania - Republic of Cuba" was organized, in which the students of Guillermo Tomas Music High School and the students of Transilvania University of Brasov performed together. At the event held at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Havana on 6 December 2019, the acoustics of the cathedral and the moments experienced by the performers and their accompanying teachers were unique; at the end of the concert, the Cuban pupils and Romanian students came together to give life to a Romanian piece of great virtuosity, *Hora staccato*, which enjoyed the appreciation of the participating audience.

On 7 December, the Romanian delegation visited the Havana Conservatory, meeting with the representative for international relations Lic. Sonia

Ortega Bravo and the Dean of the Faculty, MSc. Ma. del Rosario Hernández Iznaga.



The Romanian delegation, under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda, presented their goals in the cultural-artistic field; moreover, several possibilities of future collaboration between the institutions in the field of education and research were analysed. The activities carried out are part of the concept of internationalization and increased visibility of the university and the country at international level, while being an opportunity to celebrate Romania' National Day abroad.



Mihaela Luca, 1st-year student at Musical Performance - Instruments, stated that *"the preparation of the concerts was difficult, requiring many repetitions, but all this did nothing but unite us even more, because music unites souls, and I alongside my colleagues, true artists, professionals, people devoted to their passion, people from whom I have had and will always have what to learn, we continue to prepare special artistic moments"*.

Prof. Dr. Madalina RUCSANDA
Faculty of Music

STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF MUSIC IN THE REPUBLICS OF KAZAHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

Between 25 November and 7 December 2019, a team from Transilvania University in Brasov, made up of students from the Faculty of Music and three pairs of dancers from the University's Traditional Dance Ensemble, participated in a series of events dedicated to the celebration of Romania's National Day, organized by the Romanian Embassy in the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The team was coordinated by Assist. Prof. Dr. Lioara Popa, Noemi Karacsony, PhD Candidate and Ioan Negrila, PhD Candidate and the preparation of the artistic program was closely supervised by Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda, Dean of the Faculty of Music.



During the two weeks, the students performed almost daily at receptions organized by the embassy, as well as in concerts targeting the possibility of a future collaboration between the art institutions. Thus, concerts were held at Eurasia University Gumyliyov in Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan), as well as at the Conservatory of Dushanbe (Tajikistan), within the framework of the reception offered by the Embassy to celebrate the National Day of Romania.

The public particularly appreciated the Romanian students' performance, the choreographic moments giving those willing the opportunity to participate in the *hora* [round dance] with which these concerts ended. The proposed artistic programme made a special impression also during the events organized at the Karaganda State Theatre (Kazakhstan), or at the Bishkek Philharmonic (Kyrgyzstan).



A unique event, especially for the public, was the *flash mob* held at the mall in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Following the concert at the Conservatory of Dushanbe, the particularly pleasant impression made by the programme of the students from Transilvania University of Brasov entailed their invitation to participate with excerpts from the performance in the Reception offered by the Delegation of the European Union in Tajikistan.



The Traditional Music and Dance Ensemble of Transilvania University in Brasov offered high-quality performances, thus promoting the educational offer of the educational institution they represented. We hope that the interest in the future will materialize in the form of partnerships on multiple levels.

Noemi KARACSONY, PhD. Candidate
Faculty of Music

"MUSICA POR LA UNION" TOGETHER WITH INTERMEZZO QUARTET

The Romanian Embassy in the Kingdom of Spain organized the celebration of the Romanian Principalities Union Day in Santander, Madrid and Barcelona (Spain), between 21 and 24 January 2020. This moment of great historical significance was marked by a series of three concerts performed by Intermezzo Quartet of the Faculty of Music within Transylvania University in Brasov.



Intermezzo Quartet, whose coordinator and violin I is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alina Maria Nauncef, along with three very talented students of the Faculty of Music (Mihai Cardiş – violin II, Andreea Tofănel – viola and Mihaela Marin – cello), gave their first concert at the Parliament in Santander on 21 January 2020. This cultural activity was organized by the Consulate General of Romania in Bilbao, in collaboration with the Parliament of Cantabria and the Honorary Consulate of Romania in Santander and Transilvania University of Brasov. They enjoyed the presence of an audience made up of Spanish authorities, members of the foreign consular corps accredited in Spain, members of the academic and cultural circles of Spanish society in Cantabria and representatives of the Romanian community in the region.



On Wednesday, 22 January 2020, the Consulate General of Romania in Bilbao, through the person of the Romanian Consul General in Bilbao, Marian Popescu, handed out diplomas of excellence and merit to the

members of Intermezzo Quartet for their outstanding activity and contribution to the organization of the cultural event at the Parliament in Cantabria, on the occasion of the Romanian Principalities Union Day. On 22 January, the Romanian Embassy in the Kingdom of Spain celebrated the Romanian Principalities Union Day in Madrid, together with members of the Spanish and Romanian diplomatic and cultural corps, as well as of the Romanian community. This historic moment was also marked by a concert performed by Intermezzo Quartet. The audience was delighted with compositions belonging to Romanian composers, such as Ciprian Porumbescu, Ionel Croitoru, Mircea Chiriac, Constantin Dimitrescu and Nicușor Silaghi.



On Friday, 24 January, when 161 years have passed since the Union of the Romanian Principalities, the Consulate General of Romania in Barcelona, together with the Priest Aurel Bunda were the hosts of the third recital given by Intermezzo Quartet, in "St. George" Orthodox Parish in Barcelona. During the visit of the Intermezzo Quartet, elements of future cooperation in the field of culture and education were discussed together with His Excellency Ambassador Gabriela Dancău, Consul General Marian Popescu, Consul General Manuel Pleșa and Consul Cosmin Mitrea.

The activities carried out have helped to increase the visibility of the university and the country at international level, while being an opportunity to mark 161 years since the Union of Romanian Principalities, an event of special cultural and political significance for our country.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alina Maria NAUNCEF
Faculty of Music

EXTRAORDINARY CONCERT BY THE ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR OF THE FACULTY OF MUSIC

On 22 January 2020, an extraordinary vocal-symphonic Concert took place at Patria Hall, performed by the students of the Faculty of Music in Brasov, under the baton of the conductor Traian Ichim.



The magnitude of the event was given by the Symphony Orchestra and "Gheorghe Dima" Choir, collectives led and prepared by Prof. Dr. Ioan Oarcea, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ciprian Ţuţu and Lecturer Dr. Traian Ichim. That evening's program included creations from different stylistic stages: Antonio Vivaldi – Credo RV 591, Jean Sibelius – Sad Waltz, L. Beethoven – Symphony No. 1, in C major, Op. 21.

Thus, the concert paid homage and marked the opening of Beethoven's Year. 250 years after his birth, the German composer, born in December 1770 in Bonn, is celebrated all over the world.

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was the founder of a new era in music, his creations being a bridge between classicism and romanticism. In 2020, "Beethoven's Year", the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Brasov will dedicate numerous concerts to the immortal creator.



The event took place in a note full of enthusiasm and effervescence. The young musicians showed ardour and passion in the realization of this beautiful musical project. The capacity to mobilize themselves evinced by the students of the Faculty of Music, a creative laboratory for the young Brasovian musicians, eager to promote the spiritual and cultural values of the Romanian society, is also commendable.

This collective set out to represent with pride an emblematic institution not only for the city at the foot of the Tâmpa Mountain, but also for the entire Romanian academic environment.

Lecturer Dr. Traian ICHIM
Faculty of Music

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ȘTEFAN PELMUȘ 70. A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

On Wednesday, 4 December 2019, the Anniversary Exhibition *Ștefan Pelmuș 70* was opened at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Brasov.



The exhibition, curated by Antigona Silvia Rogozea and Lina Sărmure, revealed an experienced artist, who has cultivated over time a rich personal imaginary, consisting of elements bordering on the real and the fantastic, and a fancy-free approach, expansive and withal very attentive to the symbolic load of the images he composes.



Ștefan Pelmuș exhibited in Rotterdam and Eindhoven, participated in the Kosice Biennale, was present on the cimaises at Zoersel, Edegen and

Brussels and participated in the Ankara Biennale of Art. His works were appreciated at the galleries "Wiesbaden", "Five Plus Gallery" and "Art Bodensee" in Austria, as well as in Stockholm, Budapest, Munich or Ottawa, his artistic work being equally well received in Paris, at "Saint Germain" Gallery, as well as at the Gallery of "Soleil de L'Est" Art Foundation. In Romania, he exhibited at the Art Museum of Timișoara and the Art Museum of Bistrița, being awarded with the 1st Prize at "G. Pătrașcu" Art Biennale in Targoviste, with "G. Tătărascu" Special Prize Bucharest and U.A.P. Prize for Painting.



The exhibition could be visited until 15 January 2020 and was organised in partnership with Bistrița-Năsăud County Centre for Culture and Gil Corona Local Initiative Group.

Maria GHIURȚU
Multicultural Center of Transilvania University

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CHAMBER JAZZ@TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY. DOUBLE PIANO CONCERT WITH MIRCEA TIBERIAN AND TOMA DIMITRIU

On 18 January 2020, the first jazz concert on the new Steinway & Sons piano of Transylvania University in Brasov brought back Mircea Tiberian and Toma Dimitriu, in the aftermath of their album *The Pale Dot*, which they released in 2015 at the record label Fiver House Records.



The concert, entitled *An Evening of Jazz Piano*, was followed by a discussion dedicated to the piano in jazz, which was also attended by the curator of the Chamber Jazz@Transylvania University series, the pianist and composer Lucian Ban.

Mircea Tiberian is one of the characters with the most complex and spectacular evolution in Romanian music. His musical career, spanning over more than four decades, has materialized in thousands of concerts, radio-TV shows, conferences, colloquia and more than twenty albums under his own name. Mircea Tiberian also played a key role in

the pedagogy of jazz and improvised music in Romania, being the initiator and leader of our first and most important jazz department.



Jazz pianist and composer, Toma Dimitriu graduated from the Conservatory Prince Claus – Groningen, Netherlands, in 2017. Active on the national and international jazz scene and in festivals, Toma Dimitriu has performed with musicians such as James Cammack, Gene Jackson, Mircea Tiberian, Nicholas Simion, Francesco Mela, Nancy Morano and Alex Harding.

Maria GHIURȚU
Multicultural Center of Transylvania University

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SUCCESS ALUMNI: CHRISTIAN ASTALOSCH



The analysis of Dr. Eng. Christian Astalosch' professional evolution reveals his graduation from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Automotive and Transport Engineering within Transilvania University of Brasov, in 1994, as the starting point. Since 1997, he has carried out his professional activity within the BMW Group, being specialized in quality management and supplier management methods, and having in-depth knowledge in the field of plastics, composites and elastomers.

Dr. Eng. Christian Astalosch has a vast international experience, being active for BMW Group in Germany, England, USA, Mexico and South Africa. His theoretical and practical experience also extends in the auditing and qualification of automotive and automotive equipment manufacturing organizations. It is also noteworthy that Dr. Eng. Christian Astalosch is auditor IATF 16949.

He participated in congresses and published as

an author or a co-author, articles of industrial management, quality management and applied mechanics in national and international specialized journals. He has gone through various stages of professional development, as follows:

- 1997-2001 BMW Group, Regensburg Plant - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management
- 2001-2003 BMW Group, Landshut Plant - Function: Methodist for Quality Management
- 2003-2004 BMW Group, Landshut Plant - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management
- 2004-2005 Rolls-Royce Motorcars - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management
- 2005-2006 BMW Group, Regensburg Plant - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management
- 2006-2007 BMW Group, FIZ Munich - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management
- BMW Group, Werk Regensburg - Function: Senior Manager in Quality Management

Referring to the academic institution of Braşov that formed him in his career, Dr. Eng. Christian Astalosch declares: *"The academic knowledge accumulated at Transilvania University of Brasov provided me with the benchmarks for my professional development. I appreciate the automotive school of Transilvania University of Brasov as representative for the European Union."*

Lecturer Dr. Janos TIMAR
Department of Motor Vehicles and Transport
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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