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NEWSLETTER

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EUROPEAN DIGITAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Hosted by Transilvania University of Braşov on 14 December, the *European Digital Youth Summit* took place under the aegis of the European Parliament and welcomed around 200 participants coming from 10 countries.



The event was publicized online, reaching a number of 35,000 users; the live broadcast of the conference was watched by nearly 20,000 people.

During the opening session, the speakers answered questions from audience members present both in the conference hall and online. These extremely useful interactions generated a host of interesting ideas, while also allowing participants to test the IC technologies and to vote online using the interactive apps.



The two workshops included in the program, "Turn ONline" and "EuroIMPACT Plus", registered a

turnout of 50+ people from Romania and abroad: the former was aimed at finding ways to influence online and offline communities.



Among the questions addressed here were "What role does the digital medium play in shaping and developing these communities?", "What are the best ways to encourage young people to partake in European youth projects?". The latter workshop was intended to promote the best practices relating to youth involvement in European projects and the competencies required for personal and professional development, active social involvement, social inclusion, and maximizing their chances for employability.

Overall, the participants were able to take away a clearer perspective on the benefits that active social involvement come with: they range from an individual's personal motivation (such as, making informed choices from among their study abroad opportunities), all the way to political activism relevant for the communities to which they belong.

Florin NECHITA, Lecturer PhD
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

RESPONSIBILITY, STRATEGY, PRIORITIZING AND INTEGRITY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEM IN BRAȘOV COUNTY

The project RESPIR-BV 2018 is financed through the interdisciplinary projects competition scheme developed by Transilvania University of Brașov. The topics and goals of the projects submitted within this scheme are intended to meet the needs of the local community, as identified by the County Council in close collaboration with representatives of faculty staff from our university.

In light of this, the goal of RESPIR-BV 2018 is to map the health care needs manifest in Brașov County.



The status report prefacing this project revealed the incidence of unattended health needs in our county. Some of them occur at national level, others are endemic to our region. The working premise is that local health institutions need data describing as specifically and comprehensively as possible the healthcare needs of the communities they are expected to cater for. This can be achieved through a systematic approach to the patients' medical issues which create the demand for medical services.

The project team has designed a methodology aimed at assessing the healthcare needs on several levels, having the patient community at its core.

To this end, data from a questionnaire

administered to a sample of responders were analyzed in order to determine the current status of the local healthcare system, based on the patients' insights into its strengths and weaknesses.



Another level of analysis targets the healthcare professionals. Focus group analyses and semi-structured interviews were conducted in order to identify issues related to access, availability, and ethics in the provision of medical services to vulnerable groups.

For a more complete view, the team has tapped into the databases of local institutions and bodies that collect health-related information, such as the Public Healthcare Administration, Social, Healthcare Insurances, the local Statistics Division.

The results of this project are expected to be publicized at the end of February 2019. We believe that a structured approach to the medical resources that takes the community's needs as its starting point is likely to both lead to a more judicious use of existing resources and empower the community members as decision-makers.

Andrea Elena NECULAU, Lecturer PhD
Faculty of Medicine
Project coordinator

***KRONMED BRAȘOV* - THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS AND YOUNG DOCTORS**

Between 22 and 25 November, students at our Faculty of Medicine, members of the Scientific Association of Medical Students at Brașov, organized the first national convention of undergraduate students and medical residents in Romania.

The event was co-organized by the Surgical Students Society of Romania (the Brașov branch), and received the support of the management of our Faculty, through Dean Marius A. Moga. The organizing team counted no less than 60 students.



The venues for the conferences and workshops taking place on this occasion were the university's Aula Magna, at the university's R&D Institute, and on the premises of three local hospitals.

The medical specialists represented were obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, neurology, cardiology, ophthalmology, ENT, orthopedics, infectious diseases, medical genetics, neurosurgery, etc. The invited guests were MD. Vasi Rădulescu (Cardiology, Bucharest), MD. Andreea Stoenescu (Infectious Diseases, Bucharest), as well as members of the Emergency Medicine Students Association at Târgu Mureș.



Of the 443 participants, 114 were actively involved in the delivery of an overall of 37 oral presentations, and the display of 58 posters. They were given the opportunity to showcase the results of their research in the context of a competition which awarded the top ranking contributions.



It is hoped that the convention will take place every November from now on, so that it may become a tradition with our university.

President of Surgical Students Society of
Romania
Ioan Sabin PĂDUROIU, student
Faculty of Medicine

THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE – MY CHOICE

Be a student at the Faculty of Medicine is a winning project submitted in the yearly student projects competition subsidized by Transilvania University. Implemented on 10 December, the project's aim was to increase the visibility of our faculty among local high scholars, motivating them to enroll as medical students at Transilvania University.



The encounter with the target group mobilized undergraduate medical students from all the specialisms. The activities involved guided tours of the university, including the Faculty of Medicine, interactive courses, workshops, and demonstrations of various medical maneuvers with the help of virtual reality technologies.

The ensuing contests and quizzes rewarded the best participants.



The students were supported in their efforts by faculty staff—study program directors, specialists in biochemistry and anatomy, the faculty management.



The host of activities developed succeeded in promoting our faculty. It is hoped that they will have the intended effect—to incentivize local high scholars to study life sciences and embark on a medical career.

Mihaela BADEA, Professor PhD
Liliana ROGOZEA, Professor PhD, MD
Faculty of Medicine

CAMINO DE SANTIAGO IN ROMANIA

On 11 December, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication together with the Association Friends of Camino de Santiago Romania organized an unusual event, a conference on the topic of Camino de Santiago in Romania.



The speaker in was Ion Nicolae, PhD president of the association, professor emeritus at the Faculty of Geography within the University of Bucharest, pilgrim and author of the study «Rumanía, espacio recorrido por los peregrinos medievales» ("Romania, a space travelled by medieval pilgrims"), published in the journal *Ad Limina*, no. IX/ 2018.

The presentation included essential aspects related to this millennial pilgrimage, named *Cultural European Itinerary* by the Council of Europe in 1987. The contribution of the cultural phenomenon represented by the pilgrimage was emphasized in relation to shaping the European personality and identity – Goethe stated that “the road to Santiago de Compostela/ *Camino de Santiago* has shaped Europe”.

A special emphasis was placed on the global character of this pilgrimage—a tradition revived nowadays: in 2017, 300,000+ pilgrims from 160 countries came to Santiago de Compostela, *ad Limina Sancti Jacobi*, as well as Romania’s position, included since 2017 in the European network (of 80,000+ km) of converging roads which lead to the capital of Galicia (NW Spain), because the routes that cross the Romanian territory form a real node in our city.



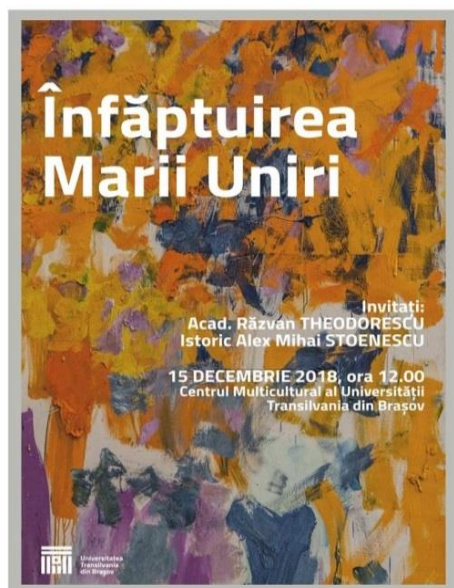
The turnout was significant; it consisted of people of all ages, and from all walks of life, from students to retirees, pilgrims from Braşov or from other cities and future pilgrims, the latter of whom acquired useful information for the journeys to come – the road to Compostela and to the inner self!

Angela REPANOVICI, Professor PhD

■ CUPRINS

THE GREAT UNION – DEBATE AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER

On 15 December, the Multicultural Center of Transilvania University of Braşov welcomed Răzvan Theodorescu, Professor PhD and historian Alex Mihai Stoenescu, who participated in an interesting debate hosted by Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Professor PhD Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov. The topic of the debate related to the Great Union, a landmark moment in the history of Romania.



Răzvan Theodorescu is a full member and Vice-president of the Romanian Academy, having published over 15 papers on history, Romanian and European art, and approximately 600 articles in national and international journals.



Alex Mihai Stoenescu is the producer of the historical TV documentary "The Birth of a Nation" and founder of the "Constantin C. Giurescu" Center for the History of the Romanian People.

The focus of discussion was the modernization of Romania from the moment of the Great Union onwards.

The topics approached were the Romanian territory, viewed for many years from the perspective of political elites, and the three landmarks in our national history—the Small Union (1859), the War for Independence (1977), and the Great Union (1918).



Later during the event, historian Alex Mihai Stoenescu praised Răzvan Theodorescu's original and valuable activities, ideas, and theories. He went on to explain—from a historian and historical critic's perspective—the theory of the modernization of Romania formulated by Dr Theodorescu.



The debate extended into the Q&A session which concluded the event, with the two guests responding to queries from the audience.

Victor BRICIU, Lecturer PhD
Alexandra GÎRBEA, student, III year,
Communication and Public Relations

A BRIEF FORAY INTO THE HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND STUDENT FILM IN BRAȘOV

On 20 December, a group of undergraduate students in Digital Media had the opportunity to delve into the local history of photography and student film making.



Their guide at the History Museum of Brașov County was Professor Mircea Vova-Bârsan, the coordinator and founder of *Student Dacia Felix*, the first studio for amateur movie makers in Romania.



The exhibition is part of a complex project which includes historical, biographical, and artistic research in short films made by members of the *Student Dacia Felix* studio during the communist era (1968-1984).



With the support of the History Museum, 128 films were digitized, totaling 11,000+ meters of film, which include unreleased footage of Henri Coandă (1975), Ion Popescu Gopo (1976), Ion Irimescu (1975), *Junii Brașoveni* parade in 1968, the cyclists of the CIBO Brașov team, the *Arta studentească* festival at Tg. Mureș (1979), the National Student Festival Brașov (1984), the Truck Factory Brașov, COLOROM Codlea, etc. The archives also include some of the films produced by the student studio: *A fost, este și va fi – experiment* (1968), *VENI... VIDI... chiar și VICI* (1972), *Eternul formelor trecătoare* (1975), *Țurai!* (1984) etc. The exhibition showcased films made in the studio, as well as the equipment used for recording, playback, and editing, which are part of prof. Vova-Bârsan's personal collection.



The discussions between the students in the Digital Media study program and Dr Vova-Bârsan will continue in the second semester within the framework of a club of photographic art.

Florin NECHITA, Lecturer PhD
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MUSIC THERAPY *THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC*

The fourth International Conference on Music Therapy took place on 10 and 11 November at Transilvania University of Braşov. The conference brought together academics, professionals in the field of medicine, as well as members of international organizations. In accordance with the topic of this year's edition, *The Healing Power of Music*, the conference focused on the latest developments in music therapy on the international research arena.



The conference program was diverse; it included plenary presentations, and workshops on various topics. Among the Romanian and international speakers were Stela Drăgulin, Professor PhD, Doru Ursuțiu, Professor PhD, Ecaterina Unianu, Lecturer PhD and Valentin Munteanu, PhD (all from Transilvania University of Braşov), Florin Munteanu (UNESCO Center for Complexity Studies), Dr. Reiner Hassman (Marienhausklinik Hospital Germany), music therapists Tozé Novais (Seda, Portugal), Alexia Quin (Music as Therapy, Great Britain) and Acacia Mpofo (Congo), psychologists Monica Szabo (No. 1 School Center for Inclusive Education Oradea), Monika Caracioni (the Pediatric Social Center – Marienhausklinik Hospital Germany), Simona Ciobanu (ICCO Clinic) and Florentina Ghenea (Braşov), the C.S.E.I. "Lacrima" team Bistrița etc.

This event was an opportunity to present new research ideas, take part in discussions, and exchange experience related to the practice of music therapy. The main topics approached focused on using music in professional therapeutic practice—mainly on its results and new trends in research. Besides the plenary presentations delivered by specialists in the field, papers

with interesting topics were also presented, such as: fractal geometry and the implications in music therapy, affective education and the new technologies, the concept of *Stepping Stones*, the experience of using music in treatment and improving disabled children's lives, the psycho-emotional recovery through music therapy of patients with cardiovascular diseases, *Triple P* behavioral therapy, music therapy in palliative care, and the choice of therapeutic music.

The workshops provided examples of professionals' experience in using music instruments depending on listeners and their characteristics, using various music genres in music therapy, the importance of psychodrama and the role of music related to it, using music in relation to normalcy, and with pathology.



Among the examples were drama-therapy, tango-therapy, the art of improv in active music therapy, coping with feelings with the help of music and music therapy, therapeutic rhythms, healing the body through music and meditation, and the healing effects of sounds on women's health.

The students from the Music Therapy Master's program had an opportunity to share their own research and insights gained from the practicum they completed previously. The names of Kicsi Csongor, Delia Rusu, Mihaela Fărcaș, Teodora Moldovan or Janka Simu will very likely be heard in connection to music therapy in the future.

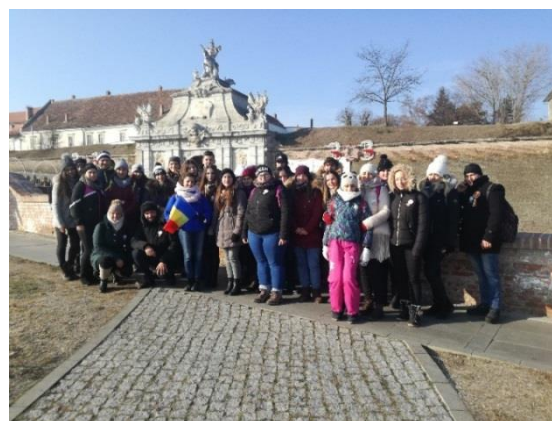
Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Center Expert

WE WERE THERE, TOO - AT ALBA IULIA...

The Centennial Anniversary of the Great Union was celebrated in various ways in 2018. The seminar on *The theory and practice of extracurricular activities* was the perfect opportunity to fulfill the wishes of the students in Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education to participate in the events organized at Alba Iulia, the Union Citadel a century ago. Therefore A group of thirty students reached the Alba Carolina Citadel in time to welcome the messengers from Bucovina. We were impressed by the majestic hall in which the Act of Union was signed. We admired the beauty of the authentic folk costumes in many areas of the country, and joined the people present in a hora danced to traditional Romanian rhythms.



The feelings we experienced in Alba Iulia are hard to put into words: Romanian flags everywhere, people proud to be Romanian singing the national anthem... We partook in the confirmation of the Union which took place 100 years ago.



Our being at Alba Iulia on 1 December shows that patriotism is not obsolete. It is a question of identity, especially in the context of the developments in of this century. The spirit generated by the presence of large numbers of people coming from all over of Romania showed, once again, who we are and will be for the next one hundred years. The added value of our experience will be reflected in the quality of the students' portfolios for assessment, as well as their ability to organize similar events when they become teachers.



Alina TURCULEȚ, on behalf of the 30 students

SANTA CLAUS AT FACULTY OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On 12 December Santa Claus paid—as every year—a visit to the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration.



Master students in *Marketing and Economics of Trade, Tourism and Services* (1st year), and *International Business* (2nd year) organized the 7th edition of the charitable event “*Santa Claus is real...in commercials!*” The special guests on this occasion were representatives from the *Bucuria Darului Foundation*, and the event was aimed at collecting food for their beneficiaries.



Under the guidance of Alina Tecău, Assistant Professor PhD and Ioana Chițu, Assistant Professor PhD the students applied their theoretical knowledge in creating a winter holiday atmosphere and a novel show, and the members of the *Bucuria Darului Foundation* talked about their charitable actions and their beneficiaries.

Ioana CHIȚU, Assistant Professor PhD

NEW VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION SCIENCES

Familiarizing students with their future professions is one of the main goals of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. In this spirit, a meeting was organized on 13 December between undergraduate students at our faculty and the management of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). The students were introduced to the structure of the Directorate and the positions they may apply for after graduation.



An interesting moment was the presentation of the possibilities of doing volunteer work for the benefit of people assisted by DGASPC. Besides the legal framework of volunteer work, the students

were informed about the type of volunteering activities they could be involved in, depending on the categories of people assisted. The guests from DGASPC highlighted the two-way benefits of volunteering: under the guidance of mentors, the students have an opportunity to learn how the beneficiaries can be helped, while enhancing their professional skills. Furthermore, interacting with disadvantaged people stimulates the development of empathy and a better understanding and acceptance of diversity in its various forms.

The event picks up on previous collaboration with DGASPC; this will hopefully turn into a formal partnership apt to secure the framework for the students' practicum, and to provide us with the insights necessary to keep our educational offer attuned to the demand in the field. With a stronger connection between the academic training and the labor market comes a higher degree of professional insertion for our students.

Mariela PAVALACHE-ILIE, Professor PhD

"SCHOOL, DIFFERENTLY" - HIGH SCHOOLERS FROM "NICOLAE GRIGORESCU" NATIONAL COLLEGE FROM CÂMPINA, PRAHOVA COUNTY, VISIT THE FACULTY OF LAW

On 17 December, students and professors from the Faculty of Law at Transilvania University of Braşov (Cristinel Ioan Murzea, Professor PhD and Oana Şaramet, Lecturer PhD) welcomed the 12th grade pupils studying social sciences at "Nicolae Grigorescu" National College from Câmpina, and their tutor teacher, Luminiţa Mischie.



The pupils were invited to the *Emil Poenaru* lecture theatre, where they audited a lecture on Real Right Law given by Cristinel Ioan Murzea, Professor PhD the Dean of the Faculty of Law.

Later on, Oana Şaramet, Lecturer PhD introduced the high schoolers to the faculty and its study programs.

The pupils were able to find out firsthand about the educational offer of the faculty, and acquired knowledge relating to the theoretical and practical aspects of law specific to some legal professions. They were given answers about the admission process at the faculty, the courses to be studied, as well as the job opportunities after graduation. The pupils also met with former graduates of their college who are currently students at the Faculty of Law.

Oana ŞARAMET, Lecturer PhD

■ CUPRINS

SIGMAR POLKE EXHIBITION

The Multicultural Center of Transilvania University and the German Cultural Center, with the support of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) brought to Braşov *Music from an Unknown Source*, a new exhibition signed by Sigmar Polke, open to the public between 6 December and 18 January.



Sigmar Polke (1941-2010) was one of the most prominent German painters of the twentieth century and one of the founders—alongside Gerhard Richter and Konrad Lueg—of an artistic movement called Capitalist Realism. In his artistic work, he focused on political events and social clichés, while being particularly concerned with the link between the picture and the reality depicted in it.

In his experimental oeuvre, Polke explores a wide range of styles, employing non-traditional materials such as arsenic, meteor dust, soot,

lavender, detergent, etc., in an attempt to produce spontaneous abstract works combined with figurative images. Throughout his career, he won countless awards, including the prestigious Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 1986.

Music from an Unknown Source is a collection of 40 gouaches by Sigmar Polke from 1996; it offers relevant insight into a body of work that is unique both in post-war Germany and in the current cultural context. The exhibition was presented by Prof. Dr. Nanna Lueth, a guest from the Faculty of Fine Arts within the University of Duisburg-Essen, who also coordinated a workshop helping high school and college students in Braşov to discover Sigmar Polke.



Maria GHIURȚU
Transilvania University's Multicultural Centre

■ CUPRINS

SANEM KALFA & GEORGE DUMITRIU A NEW CHAMBER JAZZ CONCERT AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY

On 15th December we had the privilege of sharing into a unique musical experience provided to us by Sanem Kalfa and George Dumitriu at the university's Multicultural Centre. Theatricality was the keyword of the performance – the two artists are notorious for the intensity and the originality of their shows.



Their album *Dance* bespoke the exotic influences combined with classical jazz; this kind of merger helped shape a musical experience that managed to allow the public's imagination to be transported to an interior never-never land.



The main motifs were the Turkish longing, the Brazilian melancholy, the Persian knowledge of

universal love and the Italian perspective on the four seasons.

Winner of many international competitions, Sanem Kalfa sings original compositions, as well as covers in four different languages: her mother tongue – Turkish, but also in Portuguese, Italian and English. Her stage partner, George Dumitriu, is known for playing multiple instruments (cello, violin and guitar), as well as for being an active composer of jazz, improvised and contemporary classical music.



This performance confirmed that the musical repertoires of the two artists are continuously evolving, even if their personal style is defined by their performance of classic jazz combined with traditional Turkish music.

At the end of the concert, the artists answered questions from the public, proving once again their dedication not only to music, but also to the lovers of this form of artistic expression.

Andrei PEPTINE, student 2nd year
Faculty of Letters

THE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

PIANO RECITAL BY DIANA ICHIM

The month of December is rich in musical gifts, and among those hosted by our Multicultural Centre was the piano recital given by the young and talented interpreter Diana Ichim.



Diana is currently a second year student at the Faculty of Music, the class of Professor Stela Drăgulin. A lively artist, she possesses the technical and expressive skills of a pianist with a prolific career, including many recitals and concerts, well received by both the public and the critics.

On the 19 December, the complex and dense repertoire chosen took the listeners on a musical journey through the creation of J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart, Ferruccio Busoni and Cesar Franck. The *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D Minor* is a piece composed by Bach for harpsichord, which explains its stylistic complexity. Diana performed this piece with remarkable naturalness, due to her solid technique, based on exceptional guidance.

A completely different work was *Fantasia in A Minor* by W. A. Mozart. The five parts of the composition and its ending are fascinating because of the various emotions they evoke through music: sensitivity and candour are in contrast to the restraint of the dramatic moments whose passages of virtuous interpretation were rendered by the young pianist with precision and ease. *Chaconne in B minor* reflects the way Busoni chose to listen and interpret Bach's composition for violin. The somber nature of Bach's work is shrouded in light and brilliance by Busoni, and rendered as such in Diana's performance.

The highlight of the program, *Prelude, Choral and Fugue* by Cesar Franck, was impressive because of the harmonious combination of the three moments. The improvisational nature of the prelude is meant to introduce the listener into the choral atmosphere, Franck's sensitivity being reflected in its expressive melody. Each sound of the choral was masterfully interpreted by the young pianist. The technical challenges of the composition, especially of the fugue, whose voices overlap, were very well highlighted in Diana's interpretation.



However, the technical challenges could not have been overcome without the interpreter's emotional involvement. The emotion brought about by these works was amplified by the surprise the young pianist offered at the end of the concert: for her encore, Diana performed the well-known Gluck/Sgambati *Melody*, which evokes the moment Orpheus descends to the Underworld, and Eurydice makes her appearance (moment from the opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*), then *Elegy in C flat minor*, op. 3, no. 1 by Sergey Rachmaninov, an emotional composition due to the pain and turmoil it expresses. It is remarkable how Diana Ichim moved from one composition to the next, from one type of work to the next, living intensely the entire repertoire. Thus, she succeeded in conveying to the public a wide range of deep felt emotions.

Noémi KARÁCSONY,
Faculty of Music

SOUND CHOIR CONCERT. 80's SOUND

On 11 November, the members of the SOUND choir, conductor Voicu Popescu, were invited to take part in the Concert Season of Transilvania University of Braşov. The choir was created in 1994, as a mixed choral group of the Students' Arts Club in Bucharest, including students and graduates from various faculties in Bucharest.



Appreciated for its members' vocal quality and enthusiasm but also for its dynamic composition, depending on the manifestation or the nature of the musical creations, SOUND choir has a diverse repertoire in order to attract a wider public, including compositions from the Romanian and international patrimony, medieval, classical, contemporary or folk works, as well as pieces from the area of entertainment. In time, SOUND choir gave many concerts both in Romania and abroad at festivals, in musical competitions, and artistic or humanitarian tournaments. They won gold and silver medals, first prizes and popularity prizes at international competitions, but also the festival best conductor award.

At our university's Aula Magna they presented hits from the 80s originally adapted by the choir

members. The public joined in, singing songs from the repertoires of past soloists like Margareta Pâslaru, Corina Chiriac, Marina Voica, and Aurelian Andreescu. The second part of the concert consisted of choral folkloric compositions, suites and traditional songs, interpreted with enthusiasm and passion. SOUND choir enchanted the audience with a wide range of compositions and folkloric adaptations.

At present, the choir develops non-profit activities and promotes artistic, cultural-educational and social projects, being affiliated to national and world organizations in the field of choral music. The choir members are permanently preoccupied with organizing new events meant to stimulate innovative and diverse forms of educating children and teenagers through music and choir singing. The new project to revitalize Romanian popular music is undoubtedly beneficial and praise-worthy.



Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

THE RECITAL OF SAINT NICHOLAS DAY. JOSÉ ALMAR – ARGENTINIAN SOUL

At Transilvania University of Braşov the tradition of the Saint Nicholas Day concert marks the beginning of the winter holidays, when music can be heard everywhere – voices humming old song lyrics, instruments performing alert rhythms or lyrical tunes. This year, the Music Centre of our university invited the guitarist José Almar, whose program was entitled *Argentinian Soul*.



José Almar is an artistic all-rounder, notorious for his versatility—a painter, composer, singer, guitarist and tango dancer, actor and digital designer. Born in Buenos Aires, surrounded by exuberant music, José Almar studied classical guitar as well as dance, specializing in performing traditional ballads and Argentinian music, as well as tango movements.

On 7 December, his recital represented a musical journey through Argentinian tango and ballads in a classical interpretation or modern adaptations. Starting from the music composed by Carlos Gardel, Alfredo la Pera, Francisco de Caro, Juan Plaza and continuing with Astor Piazzolla or Victor Velazquez, the artist made an excursion into

authentic Argentinian music – romantic, sentimental, dancing, passionate.

He began by describing each piece with humour and insightfulness, and then he interpreted it in his own way, with a lot of soulfulness. The surprise of the evening was the presence of the young dancers Csongor Kicsi and Raluca Aldea – winners of international competitions – who illustrated the music interpreted by José through graceful, precise and sensual movements specific for the waltz (*E/ Viejo Vals* by J. S: Castillo) and the milonga (*Nocturna* by J. Plaza.)



The show ended with a Christmas musical present, an original adaptation by José Almar of *Silent Night* (rendition by J. Mohr – F. X. Gruber), a carol which the audience enjoyed and hummed along, in anticipation of Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Fulvia Anca CONSTATIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

THE COMPLETE PIANO SONATAS BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN *SPECIAL RECITAL BY ALINA BERCU*

On 17 December, the recital offered by Alina Bercu opened the series of recitals organized by our university with a unique event in Romania – *The Complete Piano Sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven*. It is an important moment in the interpretative career of Alina Bercu, *artist in residence* at our university, well-known pianist, loved by the public in Braşov. As a messenger of the musical life of Germany, where she lives, Alina Bercu regularly gives recitals in Romania, on the invitation of musical institutions from Braşov and other cities across the country.



The program of the first recital of *The Complete Piano Sonatas* included four sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven - *Sonata in D minor op. 2 no. 1*, *Sonata in E major op. 49 no. 2*, *Sonata in E minor op. 49 no. 1*, *Sonata in F major op. 2 no. 2*. The artist's preparation covered interpretative vision, stylistic culture and personality, which are undoubtedly the ingredients of success.

The recital consisted of a succession of contrasting moments, sadness and passion in *Sonata*

in D minor, lyricism and joy in sonatas op 49, but also harmony and tumult in *Sonata in F major*. The combination of naturalness, expressiveness, sensitivity and technical virtuosity, the clarity of the sound and the precision of the musical discourse highlighted the pianist's talent.



The way the public attended Alina Bercu's performance was impressive, a state of quiet introspection, combining attention and subtle reaction to musical compositions familiar to all those who love music. Her perfect piano technique adapted to the composer's requirements demonstrates that, along her career, Alina Bercu forged adequate means fit to express her talent in concerts. Her music and interpretation created a moment of pure Beethoven, which was the perfect Christmas gift for all lovers of classical music.

Fulvia Anca CONSTATIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

SUCCESSFULL ALUMNI – MĂDĂLINA MANOLACHE



Mădălina Manolache is a graduate of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, where she studied Economics and Business Administration, and a 2014 graduate of the doctoral program at

Transilvania University of Brașov, where she earned a doctoral degree in Marketing.

After completing her doctoral studies, she continued her research activity in the field of Data analytics/text mining in a post-doctoral research project. Two years ago, she decided to change her area of expertise, opting for a career as a training and development specialist in a British company which provides technical consulting services.

In the last two years, she expanded her portfolio with 5 certificates for internationally certified methodologies and worked over 1,000 hours with 400+ trainees, to whom she coached in areas relating to *leadership* and *soft skills*.

Bianca TESCAȘIU, Assistant Professor, PhD

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