

October 1, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

George Enescu Philharmonic Opens Its 2025–2026 Season with Two Sold-Out Concerts Led by Kent Nagano and a Recital by Artist-in-Residence Mihai Ritivoiu

On October 1, the George Enescu Philharmonic opens its 2025–2026 Season with an exceptional artistic program, performed in collaboration with renowned international and Romanian artists. The Philharmonic invites the audience to the Romanian Athenaeum until June 26, 2026, to experience unique moments of stillness and authentic presence, and find refuge from the existential noise we live in these days.

For this reason, the communication theme of this Season is **Respiro**. Its purpose is to remind us all, in a single word, that at the George Enescu Philharmonic we can listen to classical music in a way that gives us pause, and offers the space and grace for stillness – seen as presence, insight, clarity, and energy for growth and change. [The Season's video](#) can be watched and shared at the links below:

Youtube -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5dlZIJpluA>

Instagram -- <https://www.instagram.com/p/DPO5DPXAbIt/>

Facebook -- <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AfYyZbSCD/>

Program of October 1

On the evening of October 1, two events are on the Philharmonic's agenda. At 7:00 p.m., pianist **Mihai Ritivoiu**, Artist-in-Residence, will open the Chamber Season with an outstanding piano recital featuring works by Liszt and Chopin. A limited number of tickets are still available for this recital at www.oveit.com or directly via the link: <https://oveit.com/hub/event/deschiderea-stagiunii-camerale-20252026-recital-de-pian-e7VY4dn4>.

Also today, at 6:00 p.m., famous conductor **Kent Nagano**, in his premiere appearance in Bucharest, will participate in an extraordinary conversation. The event, titled **Leadership Without Words**, is inspired by his art of conducting and by the lessons that the orchestral model can offer society about trust, empathy, common purpose, and about how beauty and inspiration can be discovered in the most unexpected places. The event is part of the **Talks re: Music & Beyond** series, launched by the George Enescu Philharmonic this Season, to create moments of clarity and inspiration where the experiences shared by artists reach far beyond music. Tickets sold out quickly.

Opening of the Symphonic Season

The Opening of the 2025–2026 Symphonic Season will take place on Thursday, October 2, and Friday, October 3, with two sold-out concerts conducted by **Kent Nagano** and featuring German violinist **Frank Peter Zimmermann**. The program begins with George Enescu's Concert Overture on Romanian Folk Themes, op. 32, followed by Beethoven's Violin Concerto in D major, op. 61, and concludes with The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky.

A three-time Grammy Award winner for his recordings, **Kent Nagano** is regarded as one of today's most important conductors, both in opera and in symphonic repertoire. Starting September 2026, he will be the new Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the National Orchestra and Choir of Spain (OCNE) in Madrid. Together with Jan Vogler, he is Artistic Director of *The Wagner Cycles* project at the Dresden Music Festival, realized with the Dresden Festival Orchestra and Concerto Köln. He is also a patron of the Herrenchiemsee Festival. Since 2006, Nagano has been Honorary Conductor of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, since 2019 of Concerto Köln, since 2021 of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and since 2023 of the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Hamburg.

Frank Peter Zimmermann, one of the leading violinists of his generation, will also perform this season with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestre de Paris, all under the baton of Dima Slobodeniouk. Zimmermann performs on the 1711 Antonio Stradivari violin "Lady Inchiquin."

Highlights of the 2025–2026 Season

Of the 76 soloists and guest artists of this Season, **75%** will appear for the first time in the George Enescu Philharmonic's programming. Some of the world-renowned artists making their debut with the Philharmonic are conductors **Ton Koopman, Dennis Russell Davies, Daniele Rustioni**; pianists **Nikolai Lugansky, Kirill Gerstein**; violinists **Gidon Kremer, Leonidas Kavakos**; cellist **Gautier Capuçon**; and vocal soloists such as **Thomas Hampson, Sunnyboy Dladla, Sarah Traubel, Ramona Zaharia, Chen Reiss, Carolyn Sampson, Cristina Păsăroiu**.

Beloved international conductors who will return to the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra's podium include **Lawrence Foster, Leonard Slatkin, Andrei Boreyko, Sunwook Kim**, and **Gilbert Varga**. Important Romanian conductors such as **Cristian Mandeal** and **Gabriel Bebeșelea** will also return to the Athenaeum stage.



The Chamber Season will continue to bring audiences both chamber music and jazz. Educational programs such as **Classic Is Fantastic** and **Music Made Easy** will also continue this year. For the latter, the Philharmonic will provide free access to 50 pupils and students at each concert, especially from areas lacking musical infrastructure or with limited access to cultural opportunities.

The full Program can be viewed at this link:

<https://www.filarmonicaenescu.ro/en/evenimente>

To stay updated with the latest news, we recommend subscribing to the Philharmonic's Newsletter on the website <https://filarmonicaenescu.ro/en>.

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