

Corala mixtă „Ciprian Porumbescu” Suceava - Romania



Suceava



The historical city of Suceava

ROMANIA

Suceava is a municipality and the namesake county seat town of Suceava County, situated in the historical region of Bukovina, northeastern Romania and at the crossroads of Central and Eastern Europe respectively. It is the largest urban settlement of Suceava County. During the Late Middle Ages, namely between 1388 and 1564 (or from the late 14th century to the late 16th century), this middle-sized town was the capital of the Principality of Moldavia

The town is known for its reconstructed medieval seat fortress (through the EU-funded Regio programme) and its UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Site Saint John the New Monastery (part of the Churches of Moldavia), both local and national tourist attractions. In addition, the Administrative Palace, a historic building dating to imperial Austrian times designed by Viennese architect Peter Paul Brang, stands in the historic town centre.

Suceava is the place of several medieval sites that are closely linked to the history of the former Principality of Moldavia. By far the most significant (and at the same time the most well preserved one) is the Seat Fortress of Suceava (Romanian: Cetatea de Scaun a Sucevei; German: Sotschen Festung) or Suceava Citadel, a medieval castle situated on the eastern edge of the contemporary town.



St John the New Monastery build 1514-1522

The fortress was built during the reign of Petru of Moldavia (1375–1391), also known as Petru Muşat. It was further expanded and strengthened during the reigns of Alexander I of Moldavia (1400–1432) and Stephen the Great (1457–1504). The medieval castle was part of the fortification system built in Moldavia during the late 14th century, given the emergence of the expansionist Ottoman danger. It even became strong enough to hold off an attack by Ottoman sultan Mehmed II (the conqueror of Constantinople) in 1476.

During the Late Middle Ages, the town of Suceava was the capital of the Principality of Moldavia, being strategically located at the crossroads of several trade routes linking Central Europe with Eastern Europe, and, more specifically for that period of time, the former Principality of Moldavia with the Kingdom of Poland and the Kingdom of Hungary respectively. The town of Suceava had also operated under the Magdeburg law back in the Middle Ages (German: Das Magdeburger Recht).

From 1775 to 1918, Suceava was under the administration of the Habsburg Empire, initially part of its Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, then gradually becoming the third most populous urban settlement of the Duchy of Bukovina, a constituent land of the Austrian Empire and subsequently a crown land within the Austrian part of Austria-Hungary. During this time, Suceava was an important, strategically-located commercial border town with the then Romanian Old Kingdom to the south-east (Romanian: Vechiul Regat, German: Altreich).





The Princely Court of Suceava (Romanian: Curtea Domnească din Suceava) was built and developed along with the Seat Fortress. During the late 14th century, voivode Petru Mușat built the Princely House, a structure made in wood, which included a cellar. After 1400, Alexander I of Moldavia rebuilt the wooden house and added a surrounding stone wall and a complex of buildings also built in stone.

During the second half of the 15th century, the Princely Court was severely affected by fire, the wooden house being completely burned out.

The first museum in Suceava was opened in 1900, by the initiative of some local intellectuals. In the beginning, the museum included only a few collections that were obtained as a result of the researches and excavation works at the Seat Fortress of Suceava. The museum was expanded and developed over time and became an important cultural institution, currently named Bukovina Museum (Romanian: Muzeul Bucovinei).



It has several departments and administers the medieval sites of the Seat Fortress, Șcheia Fortress and the Princely Court, local museums (Bukovina Village Museum, the history, ethnographic, and natural sciences museums), the memorial houses of Simion Florea Marian in Suceava, Nicolae Labiș in Mălini, Eusebiu Camilar in Udești, Ciprian Porumbescu in Stupca, and two traditional houses located in Solca and Bilca.



National Museum of Bukovina

Throughout the Austrian-ruled period of Bukovina, Suceava was also regarded as a 'miniature Austria' by native intellectual Rudolf Gassauer given its significant ethnic diversity (which, up until the early 20th century, included an overwhelming majority of ethnic Germans, more specifically Bukovina Germans, as well).



Stephen the Great • Prince of Moldavia from 1457 to 1504

An even older ethnic German presence in the town (as well as in the entire region of Bukovina) can be traced back to the end of the 14th century, during the Late Middle Ages (represented by a relatively small group of Transylvanian Saxons).



Suceava railway station, also known as Burdujeni, is a train station built between 1892 and 1902 in the village of Burdujeni (today district of Suceava). Between 1902 and 1918, it was a train station at the Austro-Hungarian border. The historic building of Burdujeni railway station was built in the architectural style of Fribourg railway station, located in Switzerland.



Suceava today





Our team:



Alexandru Semeniuc,
conductor



Ioana Camară,
vocal coach



Ionuț-Vichentie Ilisoi,
manager



Short history

The "Ciprian Porumbescu" Choir, an amateur choir, which is now part of the "Sing Bucovina" Cultural Association in Suceava, continues the rich choral cultural tradition of the Bukovina region. The choir is known for being self-sufficient and has been able to develop itself through self-financing, allowing it to promote and preserve the region's cultural heritage.

Although a rich choral movement can be observed during the young Ciprian Porumbescu's studies in Suceava (the establishment of the "Suczawaer Gesangverein" music society in 1867 or the men's choir of the "St. Ioan cel Nou" Monastery in 1869), the current form of the choir is mainly rooted in the first part of the last century.

On July 16, 1903, the "Ciprian Porumbescu" Singing Reunion was established, with the essential purpose of promoting the composer's creations. The music-drama reunion was renamed in 1947 as the "Ciprian Porumbescu" Choir of the People's Ensemble. However, at the end of the 7th decade of the 20th century, this choir was disbanded.

In the county of Suceava, there has been a lack of constant large-scale choral movement in recent decades, which has resulted in a deficit in the development of choral culture and arts in the area.

The current project, entitled "Ciprian Porumbescu Choir" (Corală „Ciprian Porumbescu”), represents a real success due to the fact that it satisfies the public's desire to listen to high-quality choral music and become familiar with a vast repertoire. This initiative has a positive impact on the community, contributing to the local artistic and cultural development and promoting choral music abroad.

*There can be no love of country without love of the
past and the values of our nation.*

MIHAI EMINESCU



*Suceava - March 25, 1938 Choir of the "Ciprian Porumbescu"
Society*

Patriotism is not just about love for the land, for the place where we were born and raised. Patriotism involves respect and gratitude for history and our ancestors.

As a highly prestigious event of the Reunion, we highlight the concert held at Radio Bucharest on April 10, 1938, on the occasion of the society's 35th anniversary of activity.



*Radio Bucharest - April 10, 1938 The Choir of the
"Ciprian Porumbescu" Society from Suceava*

"Ciprian Porumbescu was in full accordance with the ideal of the Romanians from the land of Cordun, but especially corresponded to the atmosphere of vibrant Romanianism in the old seat of Moldavia - Suceava - rightly called the Blaj of Bucovina or the Mecca of Romanianism."

The name of this society was not given by chance, but with a much deeper meaning, namely: through the martyrdom of his life, through his Romanian musical activity, through his manifestations of pronounced nationalism and especially through the two compositions "Pe-al nostru steag" and "Tricolor", the most comprehensive synthesis of the aspirations of our nation."

Radio Bucharest, April 10, 1938

In 1947, a mixed choir was founded in Suceava, within the Trade Union Council, under the direction of Professor Grigore Macovei.

In the spring of 1948, the Council of Trade Unions presented itself to the public with a well-trained choir and an orchestra that provided the spectators with moments of high artistic experience.

On April 28, 1948, the Ciprian Porumbescu Musical-Dramatic Reunion announced to the public a musical audition in the city hall hall, under the baton of conductor Grigore Macovei. In the same year, the Reunion merged with the Suceava County Trade Union Council Ensemble, receiving the name Ciprian Porumbescu Popular Athenaeum.



Suceava - March 20, 1922 "Ciprian Porumbescu" Singing Reunion Choir



Suceava - 1946

"Ciprian Porumbescu" Musical-Dramatic Reunion Choir

*The last photo of the Reunion choir.
Conductor: Alexandru Zavulovici*

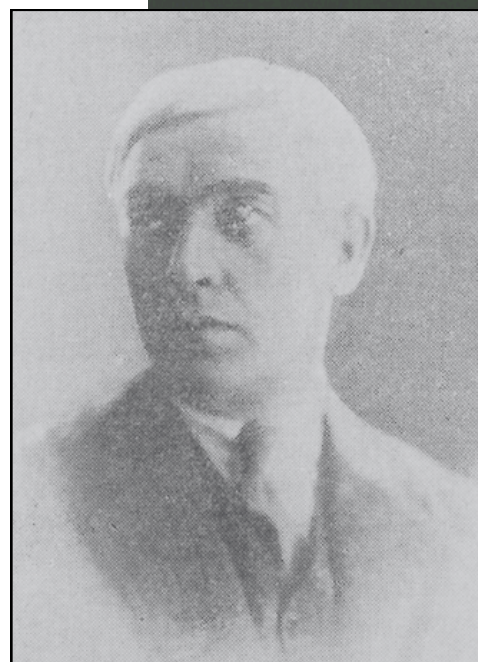
In 1956, the Ciprian Porumbescu Musical-Dramatic Reunion moved to a stage of professional activity, becoming the State Artistic Ensemble. Professors Grigore Macovei and Dragoş Lucan sat at the conductor's desk.

"Mr. President and dear friend, I thank you very much for the offer made by the "Ciprian Porumbescu" society. You are also doing us a service, to the radio society, but especially to Romanian music, which we strive to spread and stimulate in everything that produces the most valuable and specifically national creativity.

I confess that I do not know Porumbescu's "Romanian Rhapsody", but from what I know of this proud composer, I am sure that it must be an interesting work. We therefore welcome your suggestion with pleasure and be sure that "Romanian Rhapsody" will be an honorable addition to our repertoire. So please send me the piano score first, so that we can have an intimate audition. In the meantime, would you be kind enough to have the notes you have copied, naturally, "with all due diligence..."

"Thus, I hope that soon Porumbescu's rhapsody will conquer its rightful place in the hearts of all Romanian music lovers. I take this opportunity, dear Mr. Pavelescu, to shake your hand with great affection."

Letter from Liviu Rebreanu to Ştefan Pavelescu - teacher, actor, director and president of the "Ciprian Porumbescu" Society



Liviu Rebreanu



*operetta "THE NEW MOON" - SUCEAVA - March 20, 1922
In front of the Abbot's Palace of the Monastery of St. John the New*



*"Ciprian Porumbescu" Choir - Suceava - approx. 1960
Along with the semi-symphonic orchestra of the city of Suceava (pop orchestra)*



In Suceava County, there has been a lack of a large-scale choral movement in recent decades, after the choir was disbanded in 1970, but especially in the post-December period. This has generated a visible deficit in the development of choral culture and art in the area.



The photos presented are part of the personal collections:
Dimitrie Balint, Viorica Sadovei, Haralambie Florin Mitre, Lucian Tablan-Popescu,
cartofiliesv.ro, the group "Suceava, the cradle of my soul".



Nowadays

After 42 years of lack of choral movement in Suceava, the mixed choir was re-established as an amateur entity in 2012 under the patronage of the "Sing Bucovina" Association, led by Lucian-Ionut Tablan-Popescu and manager Ionut-Vichentie Ilisoi, together with several members who are still active today: Camelia Cocris, Loredana Torodoc and conductor Alexandru Semeniuc.

The Choir is made up of 35 active members and collaborators from seven different counties: Suceava, Botoşani, Iaşi, Neamţ, Bacău, Cluj, and Bihor. Members from the Republic of Moldova also join them.



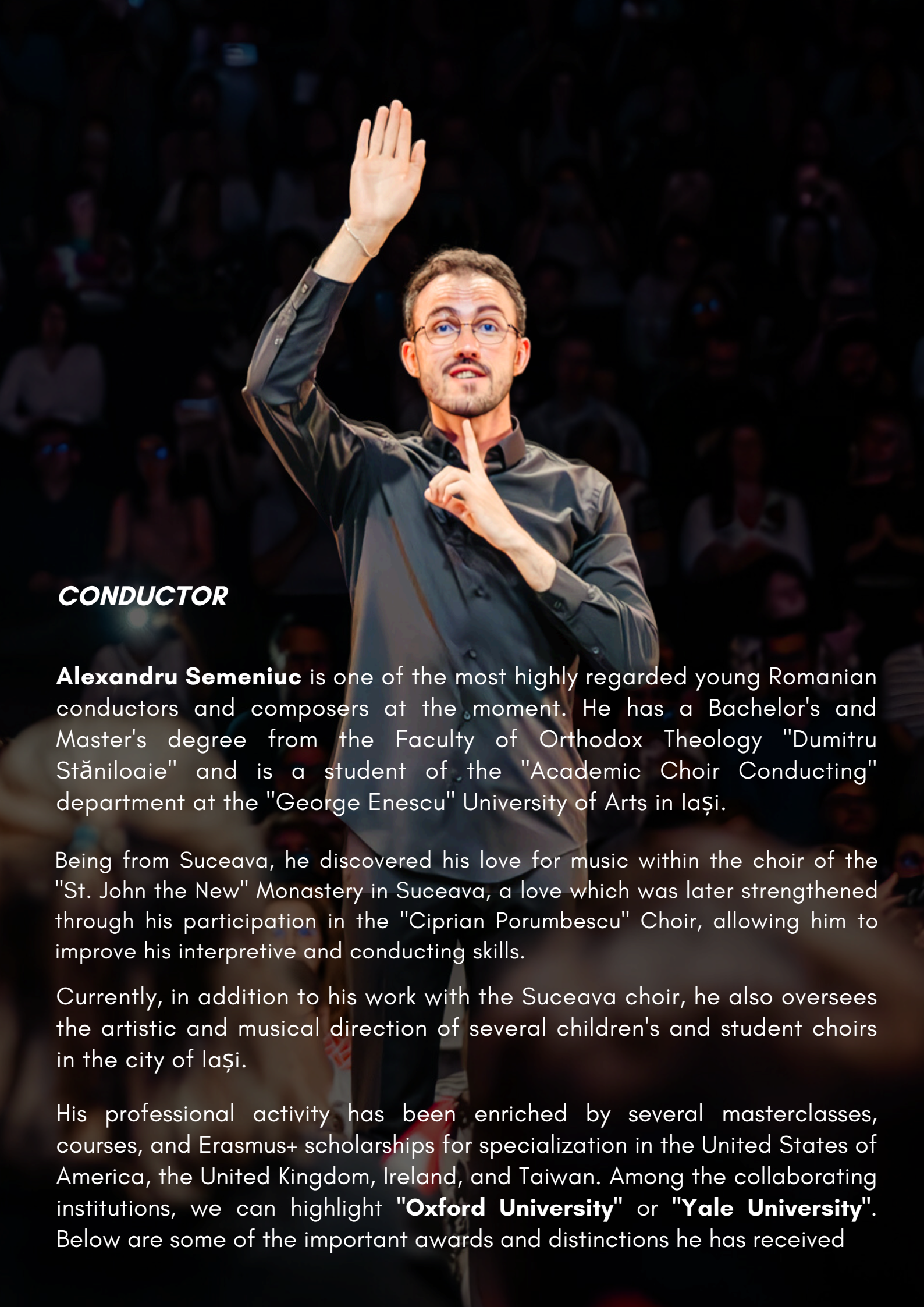


Over the years, the choir has developed numerous partnerships with the Embassy of Romania in Switzerland, Israel, the Consulates of Romania in Genoa, Milan, Lyon, Munich, the Bavarian Parliament in Munich, the Romanian Cultural Center in Neuchâtel, the "Ștefan cel Mare" University in Suceava, the National Museum of Bukovina, as well as many other Romanian communities abroad.

The "Ciprian Porumbescu" Choir has become a representative entity for music lovers and musicians, representing a standard of this musical genre in the country.

Even though the global situation hasn't been favorable, in 2021 and 2022, the moluște lovers of Suceava brought choral music back into the spotlight in their city through two outstanding choral seasons that marked the cultural history of the area.



A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark shirt, is conducting an orchestra. He has his right hand raised high and his left hand pointing upwards. The background is a blurred audience in a concert hall.

CONDUCTOR

Alexandru Semeniuc is one of the most highly regarded young Romanian conductors and composers at the moment. He has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology "Dumitru Stăniloae" and is a student of the "Academic Choir Conducting" department at the "George Enescu" University of Arts in Iași.

Being from Suceava, he discovered his love for music within the choir of the "St. John the New" Monastery in Suceava, a love which was later strengthened through his participation in the "Ciprian Porumbescu" Choir, allowing him to improve his interpretive and conducting skills.

Currently, in addition to his work with the Suceava choir, he also oversees the artistic and musical direction of several children's and student choirs in the city of Iași.

His professional activity has been enriched by several masterclasses, courses, and Erasmus+ scholarships for specialization in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Taiwan. Among the collaborating institutions, we can highlight "**Oxford University**" or "**Yale University**". Below are some of the important awards and distinctions he has received



- Winning the first prize in the composition section of the "Praise the Lord" competition organized by the Romanian Patriarchate in October 2022. The joy is even greater as this follows winning the third and second prizes in the 2018 and 2019 editions, respectively.
- Starting from 2017 until present, he has managed to create over 100 musical pieces, including harmonico-polyphonic compositions for male or mixed choir, and chamber or vocal-symphonic instrumental works, among which there are also complete religious operas for liturgical use.



- Silver medal - choral conducting - European Choir Games - Gothenburg, Sweden, 2019.
- Excellence award in the Sacred Choral Music Composition section at the Festival Competition of Sacred Music, 2nd edition, awarded by Sabin Păutza - Botoșani, 2022.
- "Grand Prize at the National Choral Festival Competition of Sacred Music "Buna Vestire" - Botoșani, 2023."
- Excellence award in the Sacred Choral Music Composition section at the Festival Competition of Sacred Music, 3rd edition, March 25th, 2023
- First prize in the National Choral Composition Contest for Young Composers organized by the National University of Music Bucharest, April 2023.
- Double gold medal winner as a conductor at the World Choir Games - South Korea 2023.





MANAGER

Ionuț-Vichentie Ilisoï, manager of the "Ciprian Porumbescu" choir and president of the "Sing Bucovina" Association, has made a significant contribution to the musical success of this choir and to its list of achievements.

His educational background includes a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from "Ștefan cel Mare" University in Suceava and a degree in Orthodox Theology from Ovidius University in Constanța. Ionuț-Vichentie Ilisoï brings valuable expertise to the choir, offering professional advice and guidance, and contributing to the development of the musical skills of choir members.

Through his experience as a teacher and lecturer in European projects has enabled him to obtain funding for the choir he leads, allowing for the realization of high-quality artistic projects and participation in internationally renowned festivals.



We will now list the most significant achievements of the choir and its manager:



- Organizing eleven international tours and over 250 concerts in the period 2012-2024 in Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Greece, and Belarus;
- The organization of a high-level concert at Palazzo Ducale in Genoa, Italy, in 2012 and 2013;
- The organization of a high-level concert at Kultur Casino in Bern, in partnership with the Romanian Embassy in Switzerland – December 2015;
- Organization of a concert in the Senate Hall of the Bavarian Parliament in Munich – Germany, in collaboration with the Munich Church Center and the Consulate of Romania in Munich – April 2016;



- Winning the Trophy of the National Coral Music Festival "Buna Vestire" – Fundu Moldovei – 2016<
- Winning the Gold Medal at the Kalamata International Festival and Contest, Greece – 2017<
- Winning the 2nd Prize at the "Kolozhsky Blagovest" Competition in Grodno, Belarus – 2018;
- Singing the National Anthem of Romania in the presence of His Excellency Klaus-Werner Johannis, the President of Romania, during his official visit to Suceava – October 2018
- Obtaining the "Merit of Bukovina" distinction, awarded by the Suceava County Council for the choral-cultural activity carried out in the period 2012-2018;



- simultaneously holding two concerts on two different continents - December 1st, 2018 - in Genoa (Italy) and Bethlehem (Israel)
- Organizing a concert of friendship alongside the "Acapel'Hom" choir from Switzerland, in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Center in Neuchâtel and the Romanian Embassy in Switzerland;



- organizing the Commemoration of the Revolution Heroes event - 30 years - in partnership with the Embassy of Romania in Switzerland - December 2019
- Organizing an extraordinary pandemic-online Christmas carol concert, a cultural landmark and a means of promoting the city of Suceava - 2020;
- The organization of the "Choral Season - Suceava 2021" and "Choral Season - Suceava 2022" in partnership with the City Hall and Local Council of Suceava
- Of the 9 international tours, the 2022 Winter Tour stands out, which included a total of 18 concerts: 6 in Switzerland, 5 in France, 2 in Germany, and 5 in Romania;
- Organizing, in partnership with the "Assist Humanitarian Foundation," a charity Christmas concert that raised funds worth 74,000 RON to equip the pediatric ward of Suceava County Hospital - December 2022
- Organizing the trip to the World Choir Games, South Korea - 2023, where the choir won the first two gold medals ever awarded to a mixed choir from Romania.



Conclusions

It was a challenging mission for an amateur choir with no professional background. In the post-communist history, such activities were almost non-existent or far too rare in this part of the country. Despite this, here is a choir of an association that manages to mobilize and ignite the spark that is meant to guide souls that love beauty towards choral music.

In recent years, they have taken on the role of being ambassadors of choral music in the Suceava region, located in the N-E of Romania, in the Bucovina area. Their goal is to become role models for young people in future generations by promoting values such as passion, devotion, and commitment to choral music.

The team has its gaze set on the future and aims to transmit through choral music authentic Romanian feelings and experiences, in a similar way to how it has done in the past, thus honoring the cultural and spiritual legacy left by Ciprian Porumbescu.







Suceava Bukovina Romania



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