



Bucharest, July 27, 2020

The 2020 George Enescu International Competition Is Reorganized in a New Format Due to the Worsening of the Global Situation Generated by COVID-19

The 2020 George Enescu International Competition, scheduled to take place between August 29 and September 20, still goes ahead, albeit in a new format with two distinct phases. The first two rounds of the Competition will be held online in September according to the initial calendar, whereas the Semifinals and Finals of all sections are rescheduled for May 2021, at the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest. The general public will have access to the Opening Gala and the first two rounds exclusively online and free, while spectators who have purchased tickets and season subscriptions will receive their money back.

The decision was made by the Competition's organizer, ARTEXIM, after deliberate discussions with the members of the juries and the Artistic Director of the Enescu Festival and Competition, **Vladimir Jurowski**, in the context of the escalation of pandemic worldwide, to protect the health of all participants - young musicians, artists who are jury members, general public and the organizing team.

"We regret we had to change the organizing format in the short time left until the beginning of the Competition. We decided not to cancel the Competition because we want to send a message to artists and the general public about how important it is for all of us to not give up on what defines us as human beings. The candidates who entered the Competition are defined by their passion for music and the desire to excel in their artistic careers. Jury members - internationally recognized artists and professors - want to promote and support young musicians in these difficult times for their future careers. Our audience is defined by their passion to listen to quality music. For them, we decided to continue organizing the Competition, but under different conditions, to protect the health of all involved. Participating in the 2020 Enescu Competition will be for the laureates of the three sections, more than ever, a great chance to assert themselves on the international musical stage," Mihai Constantinescu, Director of ARTEXIM, told the press.

The 2020 Phase of the Enescu Competition

All participants will stay safe at home. For each of the first two rounds of the Competition, **the competitors will send to the Organizing Committee video recordings of their performances until August 24 (cello), August 31 (violin) and September 6 (piano)** according to the initially chosen repertoire, and the jury



members will analyze from home the first two rounds of the Competition. All the recordings sent by competitors will be published for the general public on the Enescu Competition's website www.festivalenescu.ro.

The 2020 Enescu Competition will start according to the program on **August 29**, with the **Gala Concert** originally announced, which will be streamed live, free of charge, on www.festivalenescu.ro.

Conductor: Josep Caballé Domenech

Program:

Alexandru Ștefan Murariu – *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra* (Winner of the First Prize in 2018 George Enescu International Competition, Composition Section)

Soloist: Aurelian Băcan

Dan Dediu – *Brahmsodia*, Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello, Piano and Orchestra – world premiere performance (Winner of the 1991 George Enescu International Competition, Composition Section)

Soloists:

Gyehee Kim – Violin, Winner of the 2016 George Enescu International Competition

Valentin Răduțiu – Cello, Second Prize Winner in the 2011 George Enescu International Competition

Viktoria Vassilenko – Piano, Winner of the 2016 George Enescu International Competition

Brahms – *Symphony No. 1* in C minor, Op. 68

The First Round of the Competition in each Section will take place according to the initial program: Cello, August 30 - September 3; Violin, September 5-9; Piano, September 11-15. Both the public and the members of the jury will watch the competitors' performances recorded beforehand and sent to the organizers.

The juries will choose the 12 competitors who advance to **the Second Round**, which will also take place online, based on recordings of competitors' performances, according to the initial program: Cello, September 5-7; Violin, September 11-13; Piano, September 17-19. Of the 12 competitors from the Second Round of each section, only six will pass on to the Semifinals.

The jury members will select the works entered in the **Composition Section** of the Enescu Competition between September 1-15, 2020. Each member of the jury will analyze at home the 25 works registered, and the organizers will communicate publicly the final results on September 20, 2020.

The 2021 Phase of the Enescu Competition

The Semifinals and Finals of the 2020 Enescu Competition will take place from 13 to 23 May 2021, in Bucharest, at the Romanian Athenaeum, with the participation of the George Enescu Philharmonic



Orchestra and conductors Nicolas Altstaedt - Cello Final, Wilson Hermanto - Violin Final, and John Axelrod - Piano Final. The concerts from the Competition's **Final Round** will be part of the George Enescu Philharmonic's 2021 Season. The recitals given by members of the jury and the winners of the 2018 Competition will be organized within the special session of the Semifinals and Finals in May 2021.

Public Access and Refund of Tickets and Season Subscriptions

The general public will have **access to the Gala Concert** that will open the Enescu Competition **on August 29 and the first two Rounds exclusively online and free**. For the concerts and recitals from the second phase of the Competition (in May 2021), the access system will be announced at the beginning of next year. **Spectators who bought tickets and season subscriptions for the 2020 Competition will be fully reimbursed by Eventim.**

The **reimbursement procedure** is as follows:

- All those who have purchased tickets directly on the Eventim.ro website will receive an email from Eventim with information on the automatic money refund process for the paid tickets. The money will be returned to the accounts from which the payments were made.
- Those who have purchased tickets from the Eventim-partner stores' network will return the tickets at the point of sale where the purchase was made for reimbursement.
- Those who purchased tickets at Eventim's points of sale or headquarters will send a message with the order data and the name of the buyer to the email address contact@eventim.ro
- For more details or information you can send an email to contact@eventim.ro or call the phone number +4 0730 240 249 from Monday to Friday between 10.00 AM and 6.00 PM.

No less than 292 candidates from 42 countries registered to participate in the 2020 Enescu Competition, out of which, following the preselection, 272 competitors from 41 countries remained in the Competition. The complete lists of the competitors entering the Competition in the three sections can be found on www.festivalenescu.ro, in the *Results* section.

Jury Reaction to the New Organizing Format Proposed

The comments received from the international jury during the discussions regarding the new organizing format proposed for the 2020 Competition are positive and appreciative:

Krzysztof Wegrzyn (Violin Jury): *I am sending you my full support for your excellent thought-out decision. With that step, you are not only taking care of the health of all involved people (participants, juries, audiences, administration) but also - by ensuring that the Competition will start within a specified time without moving it entirely - you give a very strong signal for the future.*



Josu de Solaun (Piano Jury): *I support it one hundred percent. Times are difficult, and this shows resilience, fortitude, and unwavering commitment to music and the arts.*

David Geringas (President of the Cello Jury): *It's not easy to make such a decision. Congratulations! It is important to take care of all participants. Of course, it will not be so easy for all players to find now summer opportunities to record the program and we could be prepared that the performances would have very versatile quality. But we hope that the results would satisfy all of us and we could come together to Bucharest in spring healthy and in good shape.*

George Enescu Competition is an international platform for launching the future world-class musicians and for promoting the compositions of the great Romanian composer to the new generation of artists. It is thus a natural extension of the George Enescu Festival, the most important cultural event organized in Romania. The Competition has four sections – violin, cello, piano, and composition – and the international standards according to which it is organized place it at the top of the hierarchy of events, developed in the landscape of classical music in Romania.

Additional Information for the Press:

Oana Marinescu | 0741 278 737 | Oana.Marinescu@omavision.ro