



Année de fondation 1949

Year of foundation - 1949

Legal office at San Giovanni Rotondo - Italy
Historical-Social Office Voiron - France

World Folklore Union I.G.F.

Union Mondiale de Folklore I.G.F.

Unione Mondiale del Folklore I.G.F.

Weltverein fur Folklore I.G.F.

Union Mondial de Folclore I.G.F.

Мировой Фольклорный Союз I.G.F.

Autorisation du Ministere de L'Interieur du 29 septembre 1953 enregistree a la Prefecture des Alpes-Maritimes, le 28 octobre 1953; "Journal Officiel" de la Republique Francaise du 28/11/53, pag. 10.668. Apres modifications par L'Assemblee Generale Extraordinaire du 12 janvier 1957 tenue a Nice "Journal Officiel" du 16/06/1957 page 6.080.



I.G.F. NEWS no. 32 / 2025

Folklore



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Editorial – IGF World Folklore Union: Tradition, Effort, and Continuity



The activity of the IGF World Folklore Union is growing in intensity every year, and the appreciation we receive confirms that we are on the right path—one where traditions are respected, promoted,

and carried forward with passion and responsibility. IGF is not just an organization; it is a symbol of international cultural unity, where every project becomes a bridge between the past and the future, between generations and nations.

For any respectable cultural organization, a magazine is not just a means of communication but a reflection of its activity—a testimony to the efforts made to preserve and promote authentic values. This is our belief as well, which is why we have always wanted the IGF magazine to endure, to be a calling card of our work anywhere in the world.

Of course, producing a magazine is not an easy task. Only those who have been directly involved in the process of gathering information, editing, translating, and finally preparing it for printing can truly understand the amount of work and dedication required. This is not a momentary activity but a continuous commitment, a gesture of respect for folklore and those who serve it with devotion. Over time, we have tried to involve more colleagues in this process, but unfortunately, for some, the initial enthusiasm quickly faded, and the responsibilities they had assumed were not always fulfilled.

As IGF President, I cannot remain indifferent to the possible disappearance of the magazine. This is why, despite the challenges, I

will continue to support this tradition alongside those who understand the importance of our work and share the same passion.

This issue of the magazine reflects the major events of 2024, key moments for IGF and international folklore. While we would have liked to include even more information about various activities, we have featured only those events for which we received concrete details—events in which we participated directly and which had significant international impact. Among them are IGF GOLD STAR, organized in Marseille (France), José Antonio Viñas Caravan, held in Târgu Mureș (Romania), the International Symposium in Satu Mare (Romania), and the first edition of the Zenon Kolobych International Choreographic Olympiad, held in Caracal (Romania). Additionally, important meetings took place in Izmit (Turkey) and San Giovanni Rotondo (Italy), all serving as clear evidence of the dedication and hard work of our colleagues.

In this context, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who actively contributed, participated in events, and once again demonstrated their commitment to IGF's values and mission. These individuals keep this organization alive, turning ideas into reality and carrying forward tradition with unwavering dedication.

These examples should serve as inspiration for all our colleagues. Now is the time to understand that direct involvement is essential, that indifference has no place in a united and dedicated cultural community. IGF moves forward because of those who believe in our mission, and together, we can ensure a strong and valuable future for international folklore.

I thank you all and invite you to remain united in this noble mission!

**Dorel Cosma Phd.,
President IGF**

IGF Gold Star - Marseille, France - 2024



During May 18-20, 2024, representatives of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.) were present in Marseille - France, in order to organize the I.G.F. Premiere Gala. "Gold Star" (Ex - Oscar in Folklore). We mention the fact that last year, between May 5-8, 20-23 folklore specialists from 16 countries of the world were present in Satu Mare, when the meeting of the Executive Bureau of the IGF took place, as well as the awards gala.

Thus, on Saturday May 18, 2024, in the Hall of the Cultural Center in Marseille, the IGF Gold Stars awards (Oscars in folklore) were awarded. The awards ceremony was opened by: Dorel Cosma - the president of the World Folklore Union and Nicolas Charlety - the deputy president of the IGF.

The following were awarded: Silvia Zagoreanu – Republic of Moldova; Murat



Hurieyrt – Turkey; Josef Revak - Slovakia; Maria Kolobych – Ukraine; Fabrizio Cataneo- Italy; Lorenta Fustin – Croatia, Michel Neth and Christine Valenza – France.

It should be emphasized that, after the awarding of the award, in honor of each



winner, the National Anthem of the country represented by the winner was sung.

At the end of the award ceremony, the members of the I.G.F received a distinction on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the World Folklore Union.

From Romania, the following were awarded: deputy general treasurer - Pahone Pop; the member of the IGF Executive Office – Robert Laszlo (manager of the Satu Mare County Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture) and the advisers of the IGF president – Doris Nedelea, Florin Coşoiu, Lucian Stroe, as well as: Deputy President - Nicolas Charlety – France; Deputy President: Tobias Rinaldo – Italy; vice presidents- Amen Kassem - Israel; Malgosia Broda – Poland; Akelatien Birute - Lithuania; Franco Megna – Italy; general secretary: Zelida Stulesatz – France; Deputy Secretary General: Maria Kolobych – Ukraine; general treasurer: Rene Sourisseau - France; lawyer - Legal expert: Nidal Kassem - Israel; members: Josef Revak - Slovakia; Muratt Huriytt – Turkey; Stefan Kovacevic – Croatia; Michalis Lanitis - Cyprus; senator I.G.F.

Luigi Pompilio – Italy; the president of FITP Italy - Gerardo Bonifati, from Switzerland - Johannes Schmidt, from Spain - Maria Rita Vinas and from the Republic of Moldova - Silvia Zagoreanu. The artistic program was supported by the folklore groups from different areas of France coordinated by the president of the French confederation, Nicolas Charlety. From



2011 until now, prof. Dr. Dorel Cosma - the president of the Romanian National Folklore Association is also the president of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.) with its historical headquarters in Voiron (France) and its administrative headquarters in San Giovanni Rotondo (Italy). The World Folklore Union was founded in 1949, in Nice (France), and has a membership of 52 countries around the world.

The World Folklore Union (I.G.F.) has as its activity and mission, the promotion of popular culture, and its correspondences with written art and cult art around the world.



At the same time, in Marseille, a new meeting of the Executive Office of the World Folklore Union took place, and a series of activities with a folklore preponderance, but also debates, symposia, exhibitions, literary exchanges, choreographic events that will take place in various countries of the world were planned.



It was decided that in August 2024, together with the Codrenesc Folklore Festival from Oțeloaia, at the invitation of the CJCPCT Satu Mare manager - Robert Laszlo, representatives



of the Executive Office of the World Folklore Union (IGF) will participate.

This is an excellent way of promoting both the idea of utility and accurate knowledge of popular culture, but also the indestructible link between popular culture and culture in general. The international symposium will be held under the theme of literature, folklore, religion in which the participants will hold communications and debates on the mentioned themes and the contribution of these important fields to friendship and peace in the world.

During the meeting in Marseille, there was also the launch of the magazine "Abugalia", made by colleagues from the Spanish Folklore Federation and presented by the representative of Galicia, Mrs. Maria Rita Vinas.

Congratulations to the hosts for the organization and to the laureates for the awards they received!

Raimond Petruț





Queixumes dos pinos

22h • 🌐

PRESENTACIÓN

do N.º 6 da revista

A BUGALLA

QUEIXUMES DOS PINOS

O Xoves, 6 de xuño
2024

às 20:00 h

na sede de

//Afundación

Obra Social ABANCA

Avd. de Pontevedra, 9
Ourense





IGF Symposium

Literature and folklore brought us together!



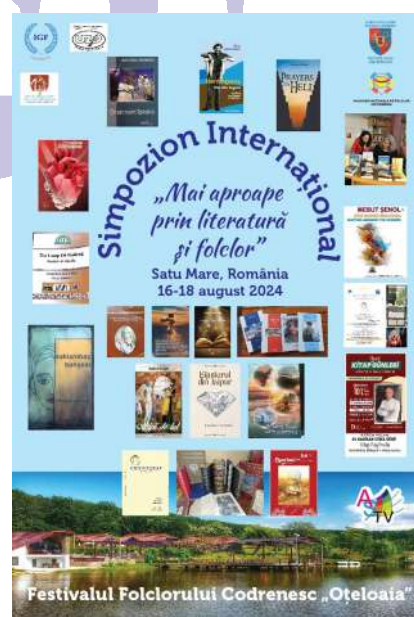
This weekend (August 16-18), in Satu Mare, the international event entitled "Closer through literature and folklore" took place, a long-awaited event, which the organizers - the World Folklore Union IGF, the County Center for Conservation and the Promotion of Traditional Culture, Satu Mare County Council, the Romanian National Folklore Association and the Union of Professional Journalists from Romania - managed to make it flawless and at the same time memorable, given the fact that the guests showed themselves to be very satisfied and honored by absolutely all conditions and activities in which they participated.

Since the morning hours, the doors of the headquarters of the National Folklore

Association and the "Chronograf" literary group opened to invite guests to the hall where we had the pleasure of enjoying the international rare book exhibition of the well-known collector from Bistri, Florian Coșoiu. Books of inestimable value, with gilded pages (some of them), of a rarer size, with spectacular graphics, engravings, striking illustrations, translated or even edited in different languages, but also with autographs of some personalities, I could find in the exhibition that Florian Coșoiu chose

to present, on the occasion of this meeting.

This was followed by the visit and meeting of invited writers at the International Book Fair, which took place at the County Library, where the



location proved to be more than perfect for such actions. An elegant, well-organized institution, with bright and welcoming rooms, managed by Ms. Horotan Paula Maria, who, from the first ideas of organizing such an event, was with us and responded positively to all our proposals.

The meeting of international and national writers began with the welcome speech of the manager of the SM County Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture, SM county councilor, first vice-president of ANFR, member of the IGF World

Folklore Union and writer - Robert Laszlo, the one who was at the helm of the entire event organized this year in Satu Mare, together with Prof. Dr. Dorel Cosma - the president of the World Folklore Union, writer, journalist - who then took over the microphone and introduced everyone present, offering 10 minutes each to present their ideas and creations.

Ioana Heidel - Germany, Gino Leineweber - Germany, Theodor Damian - America, Mesut Senol - Turkey, Erdem Arcan - Turkey, Omer Akim - Turkey, Rushdi Albadi - Israel, Joel and Florence Cont - France, Radu Văcărescu - Sibiu, Costel Nedelcu - Sibiu - there were the invited writers, who made their creations known, after which it was the turn of the "hosts", villagers: Robert Laszlo, Felician Pop, Loredana Stirbu, Adrian Lupescu, Gheorghe Cormos, Anca Soponar, Anca Glodan, Mariana Cordos, Elena Bilstrup, Alexandru Zota, Pamfil Lipcei, Mihai Sas and Dorel Cosma from Bistri, who presented the magazine "Conexiuni BC" and the writers who exhibited their books at the International Book Fair: Cristina Mirela Rus, Dumitru Bar, Nicolae Feier, Vasile Beni, Gheorghe Mizgan, Emanuel Vidican, Petru Rai.

At the end of the meeting, the organizers offered diplomas of honor to all the writers present, as a sign of respect and gratitude for the work carried out over the years and even today.

From the World Folklore Union were present: Dr. Dorel Cosma - president, Pahone Pop - deputy treasurer, Murat Hurriyet - member, Robert Laszlo - member, Doris Nedelea - adviser to the IGF president, and from the Romanian National Folklore Association participated: Iulian Praja - vice president, Lucian Stroe - vice president.

A pleasant surprise came from the Sătmăreni Seniors Association Choir, which offered the present audience two musical moments, very well associated with the verses of the poems already recited.

The day continued with a visit to Negresti

Oaş, where the locals celebrated the Days

The city and where, in the evening, all the guests had a traditional dinner in the beautifully landscaped courtyard of the Oaş Country Museum.

Towards the end of the program, the members of the Executive Office of the National Folklore Association of Romania met in a short organizational meeting regarding the calendar of the following major events: August 31 - September 1 Bran, Braşov - Gala of folk music performers; October 30 - November 1 Reghin, Tg. Mureş - "Jose Antonio Vinas" Caravan; December 12-14, Caracal - "Zenon Kolobych Olympics".

On Sunday, in the Oţeloia Forest, our guests had the opportunity to participate in the LXVII edition of the Codrenesc Folklore Festival, where they could enjoy tasting traditional products as well as the costumes, songs, dances and traditions of the Codrului area.

In difficult times, of war and great agitation, we tried, through literature and folklore, to transmit our message of: Love, Peace and Friendship to the whole world. I certainly succeeded, because messages of appreciation and good thoughts, even from France, Israel, Italy, Germany, were not slow to appear.

Congratulations to the organizers and let's see each other well, healthy, at the second edition of the International Symposium entitled "Closer through literature and folklore"!

Doris Nedelea



International Folklore Competition Festival “Rosemary in the corner of the messiah” - 9th edition



The Satu Mare County Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture, the Medieșu Aurit City Hall and Local Council, with the support of the Satu Mare County Council, in partnership with the Romanian National Folklore Association and the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.), organized on Saturday, November 17, 2024, in the Great Hall of the House of Culture of the Satu Mare Trade Unions, the vocal interpretation contest, the artistic performance and the Laureates' Gala within of the 9th edition of the “Rosemary in the corner of the messiah” International Folklore Competition Festival.

The jury was formed by: the president of the jury dr. Dorel Cosma – president of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.); director of the Mureșan festival Petru Mihai - artistic director at the

Satu Mare County Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture: Iuliana Dragoș - director of the “Transylvania” National Folk Ensemble; Adrian Vălușescu – manager of the Cultural Center “Reduta” Brașov; Pahone Pop – the secretary general deputy treasurer of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.).

The prizes were handed out by the members of the jury and the officials present: Robert Laszlo- the manager of C.J.C.P.C.T. Satu Mare; Marian Torok - the mayor of the Medieșu Aurit commune, Iulian Praja and Aurica Flonta - the presenters of the festival and by - the president of the jury dr. Dorel Cosma – president of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.); director of the Mureșan festival Petru Mihai - artistic director at the Satu Mare County Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture: Iuliana Dragoș - director of the “Transylvania” National Folk Ensemble; Adrian Vălușescu – manager of the Cultural Center “Reduta” Brașov; Pahone Pop – the secretary general deputy treasurer of the World Folklore Union (I.G.F.).

Laureates of the 8th edition of the International Folklore Contest Festival “Rosemary in the corner of the messiah”:

Grand Prix – Prunian Denisa – Sălaj

First prize – Moldovan Patricia - Maramureș

Second prize – Mahu Veronica Catalina -

Botoșani

Third prize – Hodas Alexandra Maria - Satu Mare

Mentions – Avasîicii Sara Ștefania – Iasi

- Chichirița Cristina Nicoleta – Suceava

- Son Larisa - Sălaj

Special Award - Drule Raluca Ioana - Cluj

- Stan Daria Alexia – Mureș

- Tundrea Georgiana Ionela - Olt





The program featured: Deți Iuga; Petrica Muresan; Florea Teodora from Bistrita Năsăud county (winner of the trophy in 2023); County Folklore Ensemble "WEEKLY LONGINGS, as well as performers from Ukraine - Maria Kolobych and Iryna Stelmakh, and dancers: Zenon Kolobych, Kvitoslava Demchyshyn, Solomiia Lashta.



The contestants and artists from the gala show were accompanied by the Orchestra of the "Transilvania" National Folk Ensemble - conductor Bogdan Bolchiș.

Robert Laszlo

THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK "CAFENEAUA BC" BY DOREL COSMA AT TG. MUREȘ – AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EVENT

In an atmosphere full of emotion and cultural appreciation, the book "Cafeneau BC"

by the author Dorel Cosma was launched at Tg. Mureș, in a special ceremony held at the Apollo Hall of the Popular Art School. The event attracted a varied and refined audience, from teachers and students to cultural delegations from Italy, Spain, Israel, Ukraine, Turkey and the Republic of Moldova, emphasizing the international character of the meeting.

The book, a cultural and literary landmark signed by Dorel Cosma, was presented by dr. Valentin Marica, recognized writer and journalist, who highlighted the themes and value of the work, but also the context in which it aims to explore intercultural links and promote artistic and folkloric dialogue. In his intervention, dr. Marica emphasized the importance of the book not only for Romania, but also for international readers, especially thanks to the brand guests present in the volume's pages.

Dorel Cosma thanked the manager of the Popular Art School, Iulian Praja, for organizing and coordinating the event. Prof. Pahone Pop conveyed congratulations from the IGF World Folklore Union, highlighting Dorel Cosma's contribution to the consolidation of folklore traditions and intercultural reflections.

In a meaningful gesture, the international personalities interviewed in the book received a copy as a gift, thus marking a special moment of recognition for their work and involvement. In the same festive setting, a copy of the "BC Cafe" was also handed over to the mayor of Tg. Mureș, in an elegant atmosphere, honored by the presence of delegations from abroad.

Through this launch, Dorel Cosma succeeds in creating a cultural bridge between Romania and various countries of the world, and the "Cafenea BC" thus becomes, more than just a book, it becomes a symbol of cultural dialogue and understanding between nations.

Carmen Petruț



“Jose Antonio Vinas Caravan” - an IGF brand event, managed to gather distinguished artists at Tg. Mureș in Romania



- Mrs. Silvia Zagoreanu – Director General of the National Center for Conservation and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Chisinau;
- Mrs. Dorina Oprea – established performer of popular music and teacher of popular singing at the Popular Arts School in Târgu Mureș;
- Mr. Ioan Dordoi – teacher of popular singing at the Popular Arts School in Târgu Mureș and at the Tudor Jarde Popular Arts School in Cluj-Napoca, renowned popular music artist;

Between October 31 and November 1, at Tg. Mureș, we enjoyed the recitals of famous artists, both from Romania and from Israel, Italy, Spain, Turkey, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine - who gladly responded to the invitation of the organizers to participate in this year's edition of the Folk Caravan “Jose Antonio Vinas”, held as part of the festival - national competition for the interpretation of the popular song “Mureș, dorurile tale...”.

The first day of the festival took place at the performance hall of the “Mureșul” professional Ensemble, the registered competitors being accompanied by the orchestra of the prestigious “Mureșul” ensemble - conductor Zoli Bambo. As for the jury, it consisted of: the president of the jury:

- Mr. Ciprian Istrate, renowned popular music artist;
- and members:
- Mr. Dorel Cosma – President of the World Folklore Union I.G.F.;



9 competitors from different areas of the country (Bucovina, Olt, Transylvania), appeared before the jury, which had the task of rating the performances of the young artists according to the following criteria: - the authenticity and beauty of the folk costume; - the quality of the voice and interpretation; - the authenticity and artistic value of the pieces; -stage presence.

Stan Alexia Daria (Târnaveilor area),



Cîmpean Dragoș Maximilian (Cluj-Napoca), Chirilă Miruna (Tg. Mureș), Gizella Ianko (Tg. Mureș), Roxana Varodi (Reghin), Sălăgean Ștefania (Reghin), Stuparu Mara (Mureșului Valley), Diana Tișe (Deleni), Toneț Ionuț (Bucovina) were the participating contestants who had to perform 2 stanzas from a doina and a rhythmic song, of your choice.

Special guests, renowned artists of the Romanian folk song completed the atmosphere and the picture of a memorable evening, dedicated to the man of culture, who left us far too soon, vice-president of IGF, Jose Antonio Vinas, from Spain - Ioan Cristian Țărean, Anca Branea, Dorina Oprea, Ioan Dordoi, Mihaela and Ciprian Istrate.

The second day of the festival took place at the Palace of Culture in Tg. Mureș and was reserved for international artists, who came especially for this year's edition of the Folklore Caravan. Dear friends and valuable artists like Cristian Pomohaci, Silvia Zagoreanu, Petre Petruse, foreigners like: Hujini (Israel), Duo Thomas Atillio (Italy), Maria Rita Mira Diallo (Spain), Yasin Kocman (Turkey), Maria Kolobych & Irina (Ukraine) and the representatives of the Hungarian and Saxon ethnic groups, managed to offer the present audience an unforgettable international folklore show.

In difficult times, during the war, when unfortunately, culture and folklore were almost forgotten, from Tg. Mureș, we tried to transmit, all over the world, our message of peace,

love and friendship, because with folklore we manage to UNITE the people.

Doris Nedelea





Cultural event in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova vibrated under the sign of tradition and popular culture during a remarkable celebration organized by the National Center for Conservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Chisinau, which celebrated the impressive anniversary of 90 years of uninterrupted activity. On this occasion, general director Silvia Zagoreanu transformed the Palace of the Republic into a scene of authentic folkloric spirit, where dance, music and folk costumes paid tribute to the cultural richness of this space.

In the preamble of the event, even the day before, I had the opportunity to be received at the Ministry of Culture by Minister Sergiu Prodan. This meeting was not only an honor, but also an opportunity to have a valuable dialogue about international culture. I presented the Minister with my recent book, "The BC Cafe", a personal reflection on the essence of culture, a gift meant to express appreciation and emphasize the cultural bridge between nations. Distinguished colleagues from the World Folklore Union I.G.F, from Turkey, Italy and Romania, all united by respect for tradition and cultural heritage, were present with me.

The central moment of the celebration took place on the stage of the Palace of the Republic where, with great honor, we offered a special distinction to the anniversary institution, the National Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Intangible Cultural Heritage, but also to Mrs. Silvia Zagoreanu, for her invaluable contribution to the preservation and promotion of folklore and Moldovan traditions.

The gala held at the Palace of the Republic was a real demonstration of elegance and refinement, in the presence of some notable speakers. Every word spoken on stage paid tribute to the folk spirit, and the audience witnessed a unique performance, in which



song, dance and traditional costume created a vivid tableau, evoking the memory of the forefathers and the values they left behind.

The Minister of Culture, Sergiu Prodan, was present at the event, thus emphasizing the importance of the moment and the support given to cultural initiatives of this kind.



This celebration proved once again that the Republic of Moldova is a land of living traditions and love for folklore. On the completion of 90 years of activity of the National Center for the Conservation and Promotion of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, through the respect and energy of those present, Chisinau reaffirmed its desire to preserve and pass on the authentic spirit of Moldovan popular culture.



After the brilliant event in Chisinau, our cultural caravan headed to Ungheni, a city that promises to become a new center of popular culture in the Republic of Moldova. Under the coordination of the same inexhaustible Silvia Zagoreanu, the launch of my book took place - "Cafeneau BC", a project aimed at shedding light on the international cultural dialogue and our common values.

The first part of the day was marked by a special meeting at the Ungheni Town Hall, where we were welcomed by the mayor Vitalie Vrabie. I was impressed by the mayor's commitment to culture and his commitment to support the cultural phenomenon both locally and internationally. In this meeting, I found a deep connection between the city of Ungheni and my hometown, Bistrita, united by a twinning partnership that is now also reflected in the desire for cultural collaboration. The discussions emphasized the city's role in promoting traditions, and this Moldovan-Romanian collaboration offers us new prospects for joint development.

In the afternoon of the same day, the Palace of Culture in Ungheni was the host of the "Cafenea BC" book celebration, an event full of inspired interventions and artistic moments. In the opening, Silvia Zagoreanu, always a link between Tradition and modernity, spoke about the role of this book in the current cultural landscape. Actor Iulian Praja and Prof.

Pahone Pop emphasized the importance of the author in shaping a universal cultural vision, as well as the value of interviews as a means of exploring social and cultural realities from various corners of the world. I also had the opportunity to share with the audience the idea behind the book and discuss the international cultural concept it promotes, a link between generations, peoples and cultures.

Mayor Vitalie Vrabie ended this event by expressing his appreciation for the cultural initiative and his support for such events, which give the city of Ungheni a unique and increasingly visible character on the cultural map of Moldova.

A special moment was the signing of the opening of the I.G.F. World Folklore Union office for the Republic of Moldova, right in Ungheni. This important step represents a firm commitment to carry forward the values of Moldovan folklore and promote them internationally. With this new office, Ungheni thus becomes not only a cultural city, but also a landmark in the promotion of Moldovan popular identity in the world.

Looking to the future, we are sure that Ungheni will have a place of honor alongside Chisinau, not only as an administrative center, but also as a symbol of popular culture. This new unofficial title (for now) of "capital of popular culture" promises to bring new opportunities to Ungheni, encouraging younger generations to capitalize on ancestral traditions.

Carmen Petruț



INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHIC OLYMPIAD “ZENON KOLOBYCH”



In Caracal, in southern Romania, the first edition of the International Choreographic Olympiad “Zenon Kolobych” was held, a large-scale cultural event initiated by the president of the World Folklore Union-I.G.F., Dorel Cosma, in honor and respect of the great Ukrainian and international choreographer, Zenon Kolobych.

The organization of this event was made possible by the efforts of the vice president of ANFR (National Folklore Association of Romania), Lucian Stroe, with the support of the Caracal City Hall and the I.G.F.

The event started with a special literary moment, the launch of the book “Cafeneau BC” - written by Dorel Cosma. This event took place at the Romanian Museum, in the

presence of a large audience, composed of local and international personalities from the I.G.F. The book, which evokes remarkable moments and people in international culture, attracted attention with the presence of prominent figures mentioned in its pages. The presentations were supported by the actor Iulian Praja (Tg. Mureș), the first vice-president of ANFR-Robert Laszlo (Satu Mare) and prof. Pahone Pop (Nasaud). On this occasion, the guests had the chance to admire the cultural heritage and folklore wealth exhibited in the museum, a reference point for the Romanati area.

The participants from various corners of the world were welcomed with hospitality at the Caracal Town Hall by the mayor Ioan Dordulea and other local authorities. They presented the city to the guests, focusing on the key points of regional development. During the ceremony, the president of I.G.F thanked for the reception and introduced the international delegations.

An important moment of the meeting was the meeting of the I.G.F Bureau, where the future directions of the organization were discussed. Together with the president of the I.G.F, the members of the Bureau were present: Nicholas Charlety-France, Benito Ripoli and Franco Megna-Italy, Nidal Kasem (Israel), Maria Kolobych (Ukraine), Luigi Pompilio (Italy), Iulian Praja (Romania), Lucian Stroe (Romania).

The President of the I.G.F emphasized the importance of a more active involvement of the member countries in world cultural events, exemplifying the passivity and absence of some National Federations from the landscape of world popular culture.

At the same time, the National Federations with a lot of organizational spirit were highlighted, which stood out in the realization of many events and in the participation in

multiple musical, literary, choreographic, scientific activities, etc. This is the case of the National Federations from Romania, Turkey, Israel, Ukraine, France and partly Italy. Moreover, the program of events for the year 2025 reveals the same special initiatives:

- Turkey-I.G.F Gold Star (Ex Oscar)-May 2025;
- Romania-International symposium "Closer through literature and folklore"-April 2025;
- Israel-Caravan "Jose Antonio Vinas"-September 2025;
- Romania-International Festival "Rosemary in the corner of the Messiah"-October 2025
- France-International Choreographic Olympiad "Zenon Kolobych"-November 2025.

This calendar was agreed upon with the invitation of all colleagues to attend these events.

The highlight of the day was the performance of the "Zenon Kolobych" Choreographic Olympiad - an impressive show that took place in the chic and elegant Caracal National Theater. Performers and groups of dancers from Turkey, Israel, Ukraine, Italy, Lithuania and Romania performed on stage. The participants impressed with their spectacular choreography, traditional costumes and authentic music. The presentation of the program, carried out with elegance and sophistication, belonged to the distinguished Mrs. Gheorghita Nicolae, producer of TVR folklore shows and popular music performer, to whom the I.G.F. awarded on this occasion the important title of "Artist Emeritus" of the World Union of Folklore I.G.F.

The end of the Olympiad was marked by the awarding of distinctions and prizes to the participants, in an emotional moment that took place in the presence of the son-Zenon Jr. and wife-Maria, of the great choreographer Zenon Kolobych. Master choreographer Lucian



Stroe, ANFR vice-president, was honored with the title of "Knight of World Popular Culture", in recognition of his entire activity dedicated to the promotion of popular culture.

The first edition of the International Choreographic Olympiad "Zenon Kolobych" was a remarkable success, bringing together artists and officials from around the world in a celebration of folklore and international cultural values. The event strengthened Romania's position as an active promoter of global cultural heritage, and its contribution within the I.G.F. was once again highlighted. This event was not only a tribute to an iconic personality, but also an example of solidarity and collaboration between nations through art and tradition.

Dorel Cosma



Izmit - Turkey. Exceptional international cultural event



The city of Izmit in Turkey, located on the Gulf of the Western Sea of Marmara, is located 100 km from Istanbul, with a population of approximately 400,000. It is a heavily industrialized city, considered to have the highest GDP per capita in Turkey. Historically speaking, it is the ancient city of Nicomedia which, for a while, was even the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire.

In this particular setting, a cultural-artistic meeting of great interest was held between the World Folklore Union I.G.F and the hosts of the activity - Izmit City Hall and the Turkish Folklore Federation. From the I.G.F, the delegation was led by the president of the Union - prof. Dr. Dorel Cosma, accompanied by the assistant treasurer. Pahone Pop, member of the Executive Office-Robert Laszlo, adviser to the president, cameraman Florin Coşoiu and I.G.F Senator Benito Ripoli.

On behalf of the hosts, we enjoyed the permanent presence of the president of the Turkish Federation - Murrat Hurryiet, the master choreographer Enis Usuntaş, the translator Selen Cicek Ucar and representatives of the Izmit town hall under the leadership of Mrs. Mayor Fatma Hurryiet. With all the burden of the problems of this city the size of Cluj, the mayor found the necessary time to be with our delegation and even to accompany us in visiting some important points. We thus managed to make a formal visit to the

Academy of Arts in Izmit, where we met with teaching staff, students, cultural activists. The concern for music, choreography, visual arts, theater dominates this edifice patronized with great warmth by the mayoress Fatma Hurryiet. Moreover, in this exceptional place it was decided to operate an I.G.F headquarters for the whole of Turkey and for the artistic world of Asia and the East. This branch will be headed by Mr. Murrat Hurryiet, a member of the I.G.F Bureau under the guidance of the president and the I.G.F Executive Bureau and will deal with the expansion and promotion of popular culture in this part of the world.



At the Cultural Center in Izmit, in a hall with more than five hundred seats, archipelago, I had the joy and honor of legalizing the I.G.F-Izmit cultural cooperation. On the specially arranged stage, speeches were given in appreciation of popular culture at the local and international level. There were interventions in this sense by the president of I.G.F. Prof. dr. Dorel Cosma and the mayor of Izmit- av. Fatma Hurryiet. A solemn moment was the signing in this framework of the Collaboration Protocol, which will lead to the expansion and promotion of all cultural values in this area in the future. An excellent musical-choreographic show followed, which brought the history of the city

of Izmit to the stage, through dance, music and costumes. The entire audience sang and enjoyed this special cultural event, marking a great success of international popular culture.

Special thanks are due to the organizers led by the local authorities of Izmit, under the magic wand of Mrs. Fatma Hurryiet - the mayor of the city. The same good thoughts with thanks and congratulations to our colleagues from the I.G.F.: Murat Hurryiet - the president of the Folklore Federation of Turkey, member of the I.G.F.

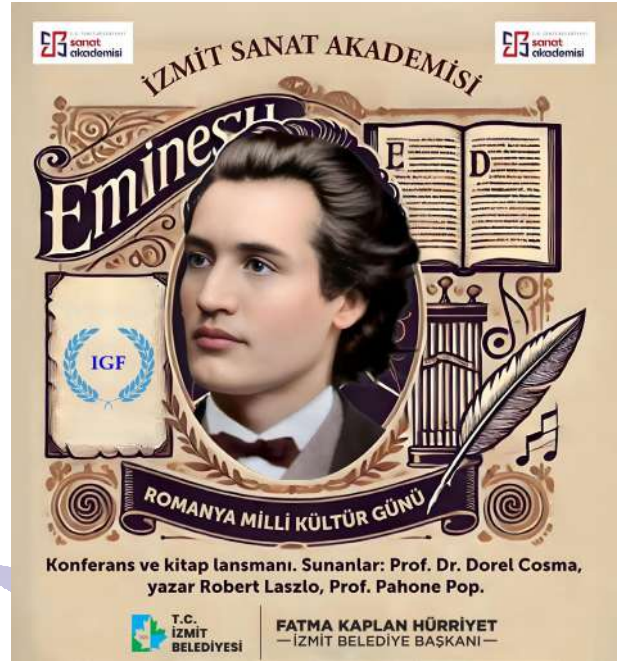


National Culture Day and Eminescu - celebrated in Izmit, Turkey

In a special setting, full of emotion and respect for cultural values, Romania's National Culture Day and the tribute to Mihai Eminescu were celebrated with great pomp in Izmit, Turkey. This event marked not only the international recognition of Romania's national poet, but also the consolidation of cultural ties between Romania and Turkey, in a city with an impressive history.

Izmit - ancient Nicomedia, a city with a rich history

Izmit, a city of approximately 400,000 inhabitants, is known for its remarkable historical past. Located on the eastern shore of the Sea of Marmara, Izmit is the successor of ancient Nicomedia, a city of great strategic and



cultural importance during the Roman period. Nicomedia was, at one time, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, being a significant administrative and military center. Today, Izmit is a modern city, but it maintains its connection with its historical past, becoming an ideal place for the promotion of culture and literature.

An exceptional event, organized by the Academy of Arts - Izmit

The event was organized by the Academy of Arts - Izmit, under the leadership of Mr. Erden Arcan, writer and cultural promoter. The museum space provided for this event was festively decorated, with the national flags of Romania and Turkey, as well as with roll-ups illustrating the cover of the volume "Cafeneau BC", the book that I had the honor to launch in this setting particular.

In opening the event, Mr. Erden Arcan highlighted our collaboration over the years and the importance of cultural exchanges between the two countries. I was invited to take the floor and expressed my gratitude for this opportunity to talk about Mihai Eminescu, about Romania's National Culture Day, but also about my book, "Cafeneau BC", which includes 23 interviews with cultural personalities from

different countries, including Turkey.

Eminescu in dialogue with Turkish literature
The moment dedicated to Mihai Eminescu was one of deep emotion. We talked about the life and work of the national poet, emphasizing his influence on Romanian literature and universal culture. In order to give the Turkish audience a clearer insight into his creation, I have presented a summary of the Eminscian work in Turkish.

I also made a short parallel between Eminescu and two great poets of Turkish literature:

- Yunus Emre – mystical poet of the 13th century, known for his profound lyricism and influence on Turkish poetry.
- Nazım Hikmet – one of Turkey's greatest modern poets, a symbol of engaged literature and free expression.

To provide an even more suggestive image of Eminescu's work, we presented a video clip with images, music and the lyrics of the poem "What do I wish for you, sweet Romania". To complete this moment, I read two poems by the great Turkish poets, in Romanian, to highlight the universality of poetic emotion. The launch of the book "BC Cafe" and the cultural collaboration with Izmit

After the evocation of Eminescu, we returned to the book "Cafeneau BC", presenting to those present the interviews conducted with cultural figures from various countries. I focused on the collaboration with Izmit and Turkey, highlighting the cultural ties between the two nations and how literature can become a bridge between different worlds.

Mrs. Fatma Kaplan Hürriyet, the mayor of Izmit, spoke, expressing appreciation for our collaboration and this valuable cultural exchange. Poetry and music – an unforgettable literary evening

In the continuation of the event, I read my own poems, together with

the poet Robert László, both translated into Turkish. Also, our colleague Pahone Pop offered the participants copies of our books, thus strengthening the connection between Romanian literature and the Turkish public.

Between literary moments, classical music created a special atmosphere, completing the beauty of the evening. The event ended with free discussions between writers, journalists and participants, proving once again that literature and culture have no borders.
Conclusion

The literary evening in Izmit was an exceptional moment, a true celebration of Romanian national culture and our great poet Mihai Eminescu. Through poetry, literature and cultural dialogue, we managed to bring the Eminscian spirit closer and strengthen the ties between Romania and Turkey.

This event proved that Eminescu remains a universal voice, and Romanian culture can shine anywhere in the world, when it is promoted with passion and devotion.

Warm thanks to my friend Murat Hurriyet-the president of the Turkish Folklore Federation, member of the Bureau of the IGF WORLD FOLKLORE UNION-who was the coordinator of the whole event.

Dorel Cosma



Tribute to Padre Pio at San Giovanni Rotondo



In the city of San Giovanni Rotondo, known as the spiritual homeland of Padre Pio, a cultural and religious event of international scope took place, masterfully organized by IGF Senator Benito Ripoli. This event combined folklore tradition with elements of classical music, all dedicated to the memory and spiritual influence of Padre Pio.

Padre Pio – A prominent personality of the religious culture



Padre Pio (1887-1968), born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy, is one of the most famous saints of the Catholic Church. A Capuchin monk and priest, he became famous for his religious devotion, his stigmata, and his power to inspire faith in millions. He founded in San Giovanni Rotondo the famous hospital “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza” (House of the Relief of Suffering), considered one of the most advanced medical centers in Italy at its time. Canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002, Padre Pio remains a symbolic figure for the Christian faith.

The event at San Giovanni Rotondo

Under the spiritual auspices of Padre Pio, the event brought together 25 folk groups from southern Italy. The participants presented traditional dances and varied costumes, giving a lively and authentic performance. Classical music also played an important role, with artists such as Marialuigia Martino and Dario Sebastiani shining on the stage. The perfect blend of folklore and classical music was a unique way to pay tribute to the holiness and contribution of Padre Pio.

Religious service and messages of peace

During the religious service, the sacred music created a profound moment, and the messages conveyed reached the faithful all over the world. The President of the IGF (World Folklore Union) delivered a message of peace and friendship from Padre Pio’s House in front of hundreds of parishioners. This solemn moment was attended by delegates from Turkey, led by Murat Huryiet, and from Romania, represented by Pahone Pop, deputy treasurer of the IGF.

The National Day of Romania celebrated at San Giovanni Rotondo

The event also included a special celebration of Romania’s National Day, December 1. The President of the IGF, Dorel Cosma, marked



this occasion with an emotional speech and the launch of the Cafeneau BC book and the Conexiuni magazine. Senators Luigi Pompilio and Benito Ripoli spoke at the ceremony, paying tribute to the cultural relations between Italy and Romania.

Cultural and economic projects between



Romania, Turkey and Italy

In addition to the artistic manifestations, the event also included official meetings with the mayor and vice-mayor of San Giovanni Rotondo. During these discussions, cultural and economic-administrative twinning projects between cities from Romania, Turkey and Italy were established, thus marking an important step in international collaboration.



The closing show

The three days of festivities ended with a grand show, where Benito Ripoli was once again in the center of attention, demonstrating his organizational talent and passion for promoting culture. The IGF thanked all the participants and emphasized the importance of these people of culture who make such remarkable events possible.

This celebration was more than a tribute to Padre Pio; it was a symbol of peace, friendship and intercultural collaboration.

Presentation speech of the book: CAFENEAUA BC by DOREL COSMA



Dear friends,
colleagues and
fans of popular
culture,

It is with great pleasure and deep respect that we are here today to celebrate a work that not only brings together an inestimable wealth of tradition and knowledge, but also invites us to reflect on the beauty and importance of the values that popular culture conveys to us. The book we are about to discover together is a fascinating and profound journey into the most authentic roots of our humanity, a tribute to that culture which is the backbone of our identities, our traditions, our communities.

Popular culture is not just a set of practices and beliefs; it is a vehicle of deep meanings that speaks to us through dances, costumes, songs, stories and poems. Every gesture, every note, every word that is transmitted tells a story of connection, resistance, struggles and hopes that bind us to the past and guide



us to the future. These elements, which underpin everyday life in our communities, are today recognized as the intangible heritage of humanity, a precious asset that must be protected and celebrated, as it is the beating heart of our civilization.

The book "Cafeneaua BC" by the author Dorel Cosma guides us on this fascinating journey, exploring how popular culture, in its extraordinary diversity, becomes a universal language that unites people, overcoming geographical and temporal boundaries. The text is not only a theoretical reflection, but also a collection of direct testimonies, through interviews with experts, scholars and authoritative representatives of world popular culture. These encounters, which enrich the book with voices and experiences authentic, they give us a unique perspective on the value and relevance of folk traditions and how they



continue to evolve while remaining true to the roots that spawned them.

These interviews are not only a tool of historical preservation, but also a way of revitalizing and relaunching popular culture in its most vivid and dynamic expressions, which are never static but adapt to the times, while keeping intact the fundamental principles that it animates them. With every story, with every dance and poem, we learn that popular culture is always in motion, always ready to open up to new forms of expression, while maintaining a deep connection to its essence.

The book, therefore, is not just a reading, but an invitation to reflect on the universal value of folk traditions, on their role in affirming cultural identity and on their power to build bridges between people and cultures. Every story, every song that is recounted in the pages of this book, reminds us that popular culture is

much more than mere pastime or traditional dress: it is a truly universal language that speaks to all hearts, one language. that unites us, that tells us and that allows us to never forget who we are.

I hope that this book can inspire in all of us a renewed love and respect for humanity's intangible heritage and for all forms of popular culture that have always enriched and united the people of the world.

So I invite you to read this book with curiosity and passion, because every page tells us not only about what was, but about what we can still build together, through the strength of traditions and values that popular culture gives us. .

Luigi Pompilio



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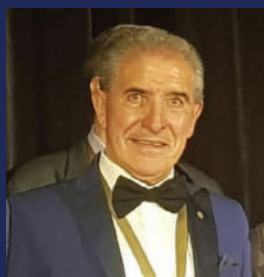
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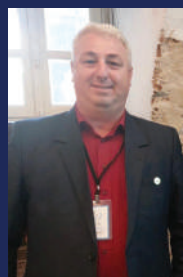
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