

Bucharest, May 5th

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPAfest 2010 Start! **jazz, blues, pop and classical music**

The only festival in Europe that reunites jazz, blues, pop and classical music takes place in Bucharest between the 7th and 13th of May. Over 250 musicians from 36 countries perform in exceptional concerts on the Capital's stages – the Auditorium Hall, the Art Center Tinerimea Română, Hard Rock Café and the Art Jazz Club will be tuned to the rhythms of some of the most well-known European and American stage names.

The 17th edition of EUROPAfest begins on the 7th of May with a concert dedicated to Europe's Day, organized in partnership with the European Commission Representation in Romania.

In its debut, EUROPAfest 2010 will premiere Europe's official anthem in jazz rhythms, an elegant and fresh rendition of L. v. Beethoven's "Ode to Joy". Thus, the arrangement signed by Charlie Schmid and Luigi Gageos dresses the well-known theme in rich notes of ethnic-jazz music, highlighting Europe's cultural diversity celebrated for seven days within the festival. Not randomly, the artists that will interpret the musical piece are musicians from all over the continent, from countries such as Austria, Italy, Romania, Hungary and Great Britain. Each of them transforms the anthem into a truly musical journey, paying a homage to its own culture through the suggestions of little tradition jewelry: tarantella rhythms, the Romanian dance, landler or ciardas.

During the following days, great artists of the European musical stage will bring quality music to Bucharest's public. Orchestra da Tre Soldi (Italy), Stelzhamma (Austria), QL (Romania), Parafusions (Italy, Hungary), Saxest & Siim Aimla (Estonia) and Milo Suchomel Quartet (Slovakia) will perform jazz, blues and pop concerts with a touch of humor and refinement, with funk, swing or tango notes, with rhythm and poetry.

At the same time, the most powerful regional jazz competition – Bucharest International Jazz Competition, at its 4th edition, challenges you to have a taste of the new flavors and tendencies in this musical genre, a modern and contemporary jazz, accessible to any quality music lover. Thus, the most innovative and creative jazz productions are presented to you in exceptional concerts of the new jazz generation from Europe and USA.

And because good music has no limits, EUROPAfest dresses Spring in piano rhythms at the 17th edition of Jeunesses International Music Competition. 71 pianists from 23 countries will transform Bucharest into a romantic and idealistic town by interpreting, each in their own style, famous Bach, Chopin, Beethoven or Ravel works.

On the 13th of May, the EUROPAfest Gala celebrates Europe's best musicians, in an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and excitement. The evening hosts the most appreciated presences from the festival, in front of the numerous public reunited in the Auditorium Hall of the Royal Palace. On the same occasion, the Excellence Diploma will be awarded by the Royal House.

Tickets can be found in the Diverta and Flanco chain stores, at the English Library and online at: www.ticketfan.ro, www.myticket.ro, www.ticketpoint.ro and www.bilete.ro.

For further information: www.EUROPAfest.ro
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