



e-mail
tomwoodchips@embarqmail.com

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Future World Leaders Summit

Washington D.C.

On July 20, 2009, the ambassador of Romania to Washington, Adrian Vierita, delivered a speech on international issues at the „Future World Leaders Summit”, organized by Presidential Classroom at Georgetown University Conference Center from Washington D.C.

„Future World Leaders Summit” is one of Presidential Classroom’s programs, addressed to the best high-school student leaders from different countries and regions of the world. In 2009, the Summit concentrates on issues like: the global financial crisis, environment and climate changes, health, terrorism, human rights and poverty and hunger. A delegation of high-school students from Romania and

the Republic of Moldova took part in the national activity in different fields of program for the first time from the setting-up of the American organization in 1968.

The participation of the high-school students was made possible following the collaboration between Presidential Classroom, „Ion Raciu” Foundation and Eliot Sorel, Romanian university professor at the George Washington University, renowned for his inter-embassy.

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Summer Anniversaries

GEORGE ENESCU (1881- 1955)



The famous Romanian violinist, conductor, teacher and composer, was born on August 19, 1881, and began to play the piano when he was 4, taking lessons with a Gypsy violinist, Nicolas Chioru, and began composing when he was 5. Then he studied with Caudella in Iasi. In August 1889, he made his formal debut as a violinist in Slănic, Moldavia. In the meantime, he had enrolled in the Conservatory of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna (1888), where he studied violin with S. Bachrich, J. Glün, and J. Hellmesberger, Jr.; piano with L. Ernst; harmony, counterpoint, and composition with R. Fuchs; chamber music with J. Hellmesberger, Sr.; and music history with A. Prosnitz, winning 1st prizes in violin and harmony (1892).

After his graduation (1894), he entered the Paris Conservatory, where he studied violin with Armand Marsick and J. White, harmony with Pierre-Max Dubois and Thomas, counterpoint with André Gédalge, composition with Gabriel Fauré and Jules Massenet, and early music with Diémer, winning 2nd accessit for counterpoint and fugue (1897) and graduating with the premier prix for violin (1899).

At the same time, he also studied cello, organ, and piano, attaining more than ordinary proficiency on each.

In June 1897, George Enescu presented in Paris a concert of his works, which attracted the attention of Colonne, who brought out the youthful composer’s op. 1, Poème roumain, the next year. He also launched his conducting career in Bucharest in 1898. In 1902 he first appeared as a violinist in Berlin and also organized a piano trio; in 1904 he formed a quartet. In March 1903, he conducted the premiere of his 2 Romanian Rhapsodies in Bucharest, the first of which was to become his most celebrated work. He soon was appointed court violinist to the Queen of Romania.

In 1912 he established an annual prize for Romanian composers, which was subsequently won by Jora, Enacovici, Golestan, Otescu, and others. In 1917 he founded the George Enescu symphonic concerts in Iasi. After the end of World War I, George Enescu made major tours as a

violinist and conductor; he also taught violin in Paris, where his pupils included Yehudi Menuhin, Arthur Grumiaux, Ivri Gitlis, and Christian Ferras. He made his USA. debut in the triple role of conductor, violinist, and composer with the Philadelphia Orchestra in New York in January 1923; he returned to conduct the New York Philharmonic Orchestra In January 1937.

He led several subsequent concerts with it with remarkable success; led it in 14 concerts in 1938, and also appeared twice

as a violinist; he conducted 2 concerts at the New York World’s Fair in 1939. The outbreak of World War II found him in

Romania, where he lived on his farm in Sinaia, near Bucharest. He visited New York again in 1946 as a teacher. In January 1950, during the 60th anniversary season of his debut as a violinist, he gave a farewell concert with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in the multiple capacity of violinist, pianist, conductor, and composer, in a program comprising Bach’s Double Concerto (with Yehudi Menuhin), a violin sonata (playing the piano part with Yehudi Menuhin), and his 1st Romanian Rhapsody (conducting the orchestra). He then returned to Paris, where his last years were marked by near poverty and poor health.

In July 1954 he suffered a stroke and remained an invalid for his remaining days.

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