

 National University of Music Bucharest

# An Illustrated History

Annotated by  
Antigona Rădulescu

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# Welcome

## Where are we coming from? Where to?

Since the founding of Alexandru Ioan Cuza's decree from 1864, the *book* of the National University of Music Bucharest has started to shape, as in an imaginary kaleidoscope, page by page. Famous predecessors of old times – creators devoted to their artistic beliefs, prestigious artists, performers and professors committed to this noble mission of passing forward the mystery of music – wrote the history of our institution. From this, there have been revealed music, wisdom, knowledge and commitment.

Our tradition of more than 160 years of music inspires us with the values of the past. The innovative trends toward *multi-*, *inter-* and *trans-*disciplinary approaches open new perspectives for the music creation and the musicological research. The more and more updated and developed technological tools expand the current and future generations' vision towards unexplored areas. The role of music remains – essentially – the same as always: bringing joy within the people's lives and guiding them in finding their own truth, beyond appearances, in the way that only art and – especially music – is able to do it.

Diana-Asinefta Moş  
Rector of the National University of Music Bucharest

# Introduction

With its 160-year long history, the road the National University of Music of Bucharest travelled down on and the events of great moment in Romania's modernization are intimately connected. As well, its evolution was defined also by its students' aspirations and their wish to develop and improve their musical skills.

The University's Archive Collections contain a great number of documents attesting its continuous operation and describing its metamorphoses, from the first tentative steps to the most brilliant instances of musical or scientific success. The most relevant documents and information on the structure of the institution, its artistic achievements and its staff are on display at UNMB Museum, alongside other items portraying important composers and performers and illustrating their work within and outside the institution, the struggle against the many hardships some of them experienced in difficult political times, or the finest efforts of the most deserving of them.

Bearing the patina of long-gone days or taking a look at today's values, this patrimony is a material evidence of the traces left by the music made at the UNMB at its best.