



UNIVERSITATEA BABEȘ-BOLYAI
BABEȘ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÁT
BABEȘ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA

Tradiție și Excelență prin
Cultură - Știință - Inovație din 1581

Romania at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival

25th Anniversary Celebration, 1999-2024

1st – 2nd July 2024, Bucharest, The Romanian Academy

Scientific Partner:

- Smithsonian Institution

Scientific Collaborator:

- University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila" Bucharest

About the event

The „Romania at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival 25th Anniversary Celebration - 1999-2024” event, organized by Romanian Academy and Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), will take place in the Aula Magna of the Romanian Academy (Academia Română), Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The event will include (July 1, 2024) an anniversary concert, at the Romanian Athenaeum (Ateneul Român), presenting compositions of George Enescu and George Gershwin.

Romania’s historic participation to this prestigious international cultural event was initiated in the summer of 1997 by Professor Eliot Sorel, George Washington University, in collaboration with President Emil Constantinescu, Academician Augustin Buzura, President of the Romanian Cultural Institute, and Richard Kurin, the Director of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, and it was supported by the Romanian Government (e.g., the Romania Ambassador in U.S. Mircea Geoană), by the U.S. Government (e.g., the U.S. Ambassadors in Romania Alfred Moses and James Rosapepe), the International Council of Romania at the Smithsonian, and the generosity of many sponsors of this historic initiative (please see in the appendix the thanking letters from the President Emil Constantinescu and from Dr. Richard Kurin adressed to one of the key organizers, professor Eliot Sorel, and two pictures from the 1999 event).

The current event celebrates the cultural presence of Romania in U.S.A. – marked after the Anti-communist Revolution of 1989 by the 1999 cultural event of the Smithsonian Institution –, and it aims to define new steps in developing this cultural presence, starting also from several strategic points established at the Smithsonian Institution’s 1999 event.

The invited guests are from both Romania and U.S.A., including representative academic, cultural and political actors related to the topic (e.g., presidents, ministers, ambassadors), from then and from today. The host of the event is professor Ioan-Aurel Pop, the president of the Romanian Academy, and the event is moderated by the university professors Daniel David (Romanian Academy & UBB), Eliot Sorel (George Washington University, USA), & Mircea Dumitru (Romanian Academy).

Program

Program Co-Chairs: Professors Daniel David, Eliot Sorel and Mircea Dumitru
The Romanian Academy, Aula Magna, Bucharest, Romania

July 1st 2024

Concert:
19:00–20:00 h
Romanian Athenaeum
George Enescu, *Romanian Rhapsody*
George Gershwin, *Rhapsody in Blue*
Doctors Symphonic Orchestra
By invitation only

July 2nd 2024

Program Romanian Academy – Aula Magna

Welcome:
9.00–9.15 h
Acad. Ioan-Aurel Pop, President of the Romanian Academy

Introduction:
9.15–9.30 h
Professor Daniel David, Rector of Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB) & member of Romanian Academy
Professor Eliot Sorel, George Washington University, US
Acad. Mircea Dumitru, Vicepresident of the Romanian Academy

Greetings:
9:30–9:55 h
Romanian Presidency
HE Kathleen A. Kavalec, Ambassador, US Embassy to Romania
Mr. Liviu Jicman, President of the Romania Cultural Institute

Panel I
10:00–11:15 h
Culture: Intrinsic Value and Value Added for Strategic Partnerships
The Hon. Emil Constantinescu, former President of Romania
Dr. Richard Kurin, Ambassador-at-Large, Smithsonian Institution
HE Mircea Geoană, NATO Deputy Secretary General (former Romanian Ambassador to US)
HE Alfred Moses, former US Ambassador to Romania
HE Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Ambassador to UNESCO, President of the UNESCO General Conference

Coffee break:
11:15–11:30 h

Panel II
11:30–13:00 h
Partnerships: Education, Science and Innovation, Energy
HE Ligia Deca, Minister of Education
HE Bogdan Ivan, Minister of Research, Innovation & Digitalization
HE Sebastian Burduja, Minister of Energy (former Minister of Research and Innovation)

(Buffet) Lunch:
13.00–13.45 h
At the Academy

Panel III
14:00–15:00 h
Reflections and Synthesis
Professor Daniel David
Professor Eliot Sorel
Acad. Daniel Daianu
Acad. Mircea Dumitru

Ceremonial dinner
19:30–21:30 h
Vatra Restaurant
by invitation only

Outcomes:
New strategic partnerships, new projects, Audio-visual recordings, Published monograph (digital and hard copy), Media interviews

Promotion:
Alexandru Serban, Serban & Musneci Associates

Speakers (as they appear in the Program)



Acad. **Ioan-Aurel Pop**
President of the Romanian Academy



Professor **Daniel David**
Rector of Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB)
& member of Romanian Academy



Professor **Eliot Sorel**
George Washington University, US



Acad. **Mircea Dumitru**
Vicepresident of the Romanian Academy



Dr. **Diana Loreta Păun**
Presidential Adviser - Romanian Presidency



HE **Kathleen A. Kavalec**
Ambassador, US Embassy to Romania



Mr. **Liviu Jicman**
President of the Romania Cultural Institute



The Hon. **Emil Constantinescu**
former President of Romania



Dr. **Richard Kurin**
Ambassador-at-Large
Smithsonian Institution



HE **Mircea Geoană**
NATO Deputy Secretary General
(former Romanian Ambassador to US)



HE **Alfred Moses**
former US Ambassador to Romania



HE **Simona-Mirela Miculescu**
Ambassador to UNESCO
President of the UNESCO General Conference



HE **Ligia Deca**
Minister of Education



HE **Bogdan Ivan**
Minister of Research,
Innovation and Digitalization



HE **Sebastian Burduja**
Minister of Energy
(Former Minister of Research,
Innovation and Digitalization)



Acad. **Daniel Daianu**
Romanian Academy

Short bios (of the guests from abroad and of the former President of Romania as they appear in the Program)

Eliot Sorel

Eliot Sorel, MD, DLFAPA is an innovative global health leader, health systems performance expert, practicing physician, and Clinical Professor of Global Health, Health Policy & Management and of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the George Washington University.



Dr. Sorel is:

- A subject matter expert on World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH Fogarty International Center), National Institute of Mental Health, (NIMH), World Bank Group (WBG), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) projects.
- Founding editor in chief, Global Mental Health and Psychiatry Review.
- Co-founder, Africa Global Mental Health Institute.
- Lead physician teaching Global Mental Health, the Milken Institute School of Public Health (The George Washington University).
- Originator, the innovative TOTAL Health model, a primary care, mental health, and public health integrated/ collaborative template, presented (by invitation) at the WBG/WHO joint Health and Development meeting and Mental Health Innovators Fair (Washington, D.C.: April 2016).
- President, 1st International Perinatal TOTAL Health Congress (June 2018).
- Co-chair, Scientific Committee, Social Determinants of Health/Mental Health & Access to Care World Congress (October 2019). www.wasp2019bucharest.org.
- Principal investigator, clinical public health research project on Depression & Comorbidity in Primary Care in China, India, Iran, Romania published in the International Medical Journal and presented at the Health and Development WBG/WHO joint meeting and Mental Health Innovators' Fair (Washington, DC: April 2016).
- Lead author of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Position Statement, "Healthcare, Inclusive of Mental Healthcare, Is a Human Right," APA policy since December, 2017.
- Lead author, APA position statement on Integrated Care (2016).
- Published scholar, including, among others,
 - 21st Century Global Mental Health;
 - COVID-19 Vaccines, Accelerated Innovations, and 21st Century Social Contract Challenges accessible at www.worldsocpsychiatry.org; and
 - OECD's Making Mental Health Count project (subject matter expert), www.oecd.org.
- Initiator, APA Chester Pierce Human Rights Award endowment completed, Autumn 2021 and launched at the APA Annual Scientific Meeting (New Orleans, Louisiana, May 2022).
- Initiator and Co-author, WPA Bucharest Statement on Integrated Care & Collaborative Care (2015).

- Co-signatory, Amici Curiae Brief of Public Health Experts, American Public Health Association, and American Academy of Nursing, in California, et al., v Texas, No. 19-840 and 19-1019, U.S. Supreme Court, in support of the Affordable Care Act (May 2020).
- Recipient of honors and awards, including
- Rehabilitation International Centennial Award for global mental health leadership (Beijing, China: May 2023);
- APA Assembly Ronald A. Shellow Award (Spring 2021);
- Pioneer and Leader in Public Health honoree, GWU Milken Institute School of Public Health (December 2019);
- Mental Health Champion Award, Universal Health and Mental Health for All Conference (Malta, European Union: December, 2018);
- Excellence Prize presented by the Government of Romania (Washington, D.C.: October, 2018);
- Doctor Honoris Causa Carol Davila Medical University (Bucharest, Romania: October 2009) and by the Politehnica University of Bucharest, Romania (Bucharest, Romania: June 2014);
- Star of Romania Order of Commander, decorated by the President of Romania (January 2004);
- Commendation by the United States Congress (Congressional Record Autumn 2002) for Resilience

Kathleen A. Kavalec



Kathleen A. Kavalec was sworn in as Ambassador to Romania on December 20, 2022. Previously, Ambassador Kavalec served as the Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2019–2022. Prior to that, she was Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR) at the Department of State.

A career U.S. diplomat, Ambassador Kavalec has held a variety of diplomatic assignments, including Director for Russian Affairs, Deputy Permanent Delegate and Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Mission to the UNESCO in Paris, Deputy Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia, and Director of Conflict Prevention in the Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. Her overseas assignments have included service as the Political Counselor in Ukraine, two tours in Russia covering political issues, as well as tours in Romania and Brazil. In Romania, she served as Cultural Attache between 2005 and 2008. She is the recipient of numerous State Department awards, as well as a Presidential Rank Award.

Ambassador Kavalec holds an A.B. in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master's in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. Her foreign languages include Romanian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. She is married and has three children.

Information source: <https://ro.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/our-ambassador/>

Liviu Jicman

Liviu Sebastian Jicman is President of the Romanian Cultural Institute since 2021, the leading cultural diplomacy institution for promoting Romanian culture internationally. Additionally, since 2024, he is also President of European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC).



Born in 1981 in Bucharest, he graduated in 2004 from the Faculty of Economic Studies in Foreign Languages – German Language Section – within the Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies. Subsequently, he graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Bucharest.

In the past 12 years, he has worked exclusively in the field of culture. Prior to his current position at the Romanian Cultural Institute, he was the general director of the Cotroceni National Museum for 5 years and vice president of the Romanian Cultural Institute for 3 years. He worked within the Ministry of Culture (and later within the Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony) as the minister's chief of staff, and later as minister's advisor. As a representative of the Ministry of Culture or the Romanian Cultural Institute, he was a member of the National Cultural Fund Administration Board (AFCN), an advisory body on the evaluation, selection, and financing of cultural projects. Until 2012, he worked as PR consultant at the "Masca" Theater in Bucharest and held various roles at central public administration level.

He received several scholarships, including one from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation through its on-site program. Additionally, he participated in the "ACYPL – American Council for Young Political Leaders" program, which was organized by the U.S. Department of State in collaboration with the Foundation for Pluralism (February 2006, USA). Furthermore, he served as the coordinator of the Alexandru Paleologu conference program, which was conducted in partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

Emil Constantinescu

President of the Institute for Advanced Studies
in Levant Culture and Civilization

President of Romania 1996 – 2000



Professor of Geology, scientist, civic activist and political leader. After the fall of the communist dictatorship in 1989, he was elected Rector (Chancellor) of the University of Bucharest and President of the Romanian Democratic Convention. During his presidential mandate (1996–2000), Romania embarked upon a substantial package of reforms in the economy, justice system and public administration. President Constantinescu opened the crucial path for Romania's Euro-Atlantic integration, and for reconciliation and peace in Eastern Europe. Upon the end of his presidential term, he resumed his academic career.

President of the Berlin Academy for Cultural Diplomacy and of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization,

Professor Emil Constantinescu has contributed to the theoretical definition of "cultural diplomacy", as well as to the creation of a global culture of peace through education, having presented the Levant Initiative for Global Peace before some of the world's most important international organisations and conferences.

For his contribution to the democratic reforms in Romania, to the enforcement of the rule of law and the institution of world peace, Professor Emil Constantinescu has received numerous international distinctions, among them the Aristide Calvani Prize for Peace, Democracy and Human Development – Paris, 1997; the European Statesman of the Year, East West Institute – New York, 1998; the European Prize of the Coudenhove-Kalergi Foundation, for his role as a principal actor of building European stability in Central and Eastern Europe – Vienna, 1998; the American Bar Association Prize for exceptional achievements in promoting the rule of law – Atlanta, 1999; the Ambroise Vollard Prize for the education of professional and moral elites – Madrid, 2011; the Gusi Peace Prize, the most important prize awarded in Asia – Manila, 2013; the Lifetime Achievement Award – Berlin, 2013, International Human Rights Award 2022 – Pakistan.

Since 1996, Emil Constantinescu has been an Emeritus Professor and Honorary President of the Senate of the University of Bucharest.

Doctor ès Sciences, Duke University, USA

Chairman, National Council of University Rectors, 1992–1996

Rector (Chancellor), University of Bucharest, 1992–1996

European Universities Association (CRE) Steering Committee, 1992–1998

International Association of University Presidents (IAUP), 1994–1996

President, Academy of Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, 2011–2017

Member of the Board of Trustees of the World Academy of Art and Science, since 2011

Member of the Board of Trustees of the World University Consortium, since 2013

Member of the Board of Trustees of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt, since 2015

Doctor Honoris Causa: École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France; University of Liège, Belgium; Polytechnion University, Athens, Greece; University of Montreal, Canada; University of New Delhi, India; University of Beijing, China; Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey; "St Ivan Rilski" University, Sofia, Bulgaria; University of Maribor, Slovenia; Free University of Chişinău, Republic of Moldova; Srinakharinwurst University, Bangkok, Thailand; Eurasian University, Astana, Kazakhstan; "St Kliment Ohridski" University, Sofia, Bulgaria.

Richard Kurin

Richard Kurin began his Smithsonian career working on America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976. He is currently Distinguished Scholar and Ambassador-at-Large, focused on strategic and special initiatives, institutional representation, and philanthropic support. He previously served for more than a decade as Under Secretary overseeing all of the Smithsonian's national museums, scientific research centers and educational programs. He has played major roles in the development and/or transformation of most of the museums. He continues to oversee the Smithsonian's Cultural



Rescue Initiative, review content for the Smithsonian Channel, write for Smithsonian magazine, and conduct his own research.

Earlier in his Smithsonian career, for almost two decades Kurin served as the Director of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, producing the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival—a presentation of living cultural tradition and creativity held on the National Mall in Washington every summer, and guiding the highly acclaimed, Grammy award-winning Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. He also produced major events for the opening of national museums and memorials, for presidential inaugurations and for the Olympics. He worked closely with the Black Family Reunion from its inception and continues decades-long collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Project, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and with Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart.

Kurin founded the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative after Haiti's 2010 earthquake and has worked to save cultural heritage endangered by natural disasters and human conflict. In the U.S. he co-chairs the Heritage Emergency National Task Force—a Smithsonian / FEMA- led partnership with national, state and local organizations that respond to cultural resource damage in natural disasters. Internationally, he worked with UNESCO to help develop the 2003 Convention to safeguard living cultural heritage that has been ratified by 180 countries. He works closely with the U.S. Departments of State, Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security and with local partners in Iraq, Syria, Mali, Afghanistan and currently Ukraine and Sudan to safeguard heritage, identify looted art, and document cultural war crimes. He has served as Smithsonian liaison to the White House Historical Association and the U.S. President's Committee for the Arts and Humanities, and as a member of the U.S. Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee, the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage, and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. He is a founding board member of ALIPH—the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage.

An anthropologist and former Fulbright fellow with a PhD from the University of Chicago, Kurin has carried out years of field research in India and Pakistan, authored seven books including *The Smithsonian's History of America in 101 Objects*, taught at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, given invited presentations at Harvard, Yale, Oxford, the MET, the World Bank, the World Economic Forum at Davos, for Congress, and at the Supreme Court. He has produced two series with The Great Courses, one for public television. Honored by many organizations, Kurin is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council Arsht-Rockefeller Resilience Center.

Mircea Geoană

Mircea Geoană became NATO Deputy Secretary General in October 2019, after a distinguished domestic and international career. Mr Geoană is the first Deputy Secretary General from Romania, and the first from any of



the countries that joined the Alliance after the end of the Cold War.

Mircea Geoană was born in Romania on 14 July 1958. He studied at the Polytechnic University in Bucharest, the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest, the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, and he holds a PhD from the Economic Studies Academy of Bucharest. Mr Geoană has served as a diplomat and a politician, and in 2009 was his party's candidate to be President of Romania.

1991-1995: Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania

1993-1995: Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1996-2000: Romanian Ambassador to the United States.

2000-2004: Minister of Foreign Affairs

2001: President in Office of OSCE

2004-2016: Senator

2004-2008: Chair of the Senate Foreign Policy Committee

2005-2010: President of the Social Democratic Party

2008-2011: President of the Romanian Senate

2012-2014: High Representative of the Romanian Government for Strategic Economic Projects and Public Diplomacy

2012-2014: Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Romania's accession to the Schengen Area

Mr Geoană is a strong advocate of transatlantic integration and has held a number of international positions, including OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in 2001 and personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Georgia in 2005. He is President and founder of the Aspen Institute Romania and has published extensively on domestic and international affairs.

In 2000, he was made a Commander of the National Order, The Star of Romania. He has also been awarded the French Legion d'Honneur and the Italian Stella della Solidarieta. He is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Italian.

Information source: www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/who_is_who_167942.htm

Alfred H. Moses

Alfred H. Moses graduated from public high school in Baltimore, Maryland, received his BA from Dartmouth College in 1951 and received his law degree in 1956 from Georgetown University Law School.



In the fall of 1952 Moses enlisted in the US Navy and emerged three years later as a full lieutenant on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, DC, where he made his home for the next 70 years.

Upon graduation from law school, Moses joined Washington's leading law firm, Covington & Burling. His great passion is litigation and other forms of advocacy.

He figuratively arm wrestled with Romania's Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu to allow Romania's Jews to emigrate to Israel. This diplomatic success led to President Clinton appointing him in the Fall of 1994 as the American ambassador to Romania. His service as Ambassador was recognized by the post-Communist Romanian Government with the Marc Cucu Medal, its highest distinction. He was the first American to be so honored. President Clinton subsequently appointed him Special Presidential Envoy for the Cyprus Conflict between the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus. Secretary of State Madeline Albright said of Moses' efforts "The process you set in motion clearly represents the best hope for a comprehensive settlement."

During the Carter Administration Moses served as Special Counsel to the President in the Billygate Hearings. President Carter later told Moses that his legal skills and good judgment had saved him the Democratic Party's Presidential candidacy in 1980. He was also special advisor to President Carter on Jewish affairs.

Moses was elected to four successive terms as National President of the American Jewish Committee and served for 19 years as Chair of U.N. Watch in Geneva, Switzerland. He has served as a trustee/director of numerous charitable and educational institutions and received three honorary doctorates from universities in the United States and Europe.

The most newsworthy of Moses' public accomplishments may have been his 2023 purchase at public auction of the Sassoon Codex for \$38.1 million. The Codex is the oldest, extant nearly complete Hebrew Bible. It sold for the highest price ever paid for a single book. The Codex is now owned by and on public display at ANU, the Museum of the Jewish People, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

In addition to family biographies and a history of the family hat business, Moses wrote Bucharest Diary: Romania's Journey From Darkness to Light, published in 2018 by Brookings Institution Press, as well as numerous writings in journals and newspapers around the world, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, Di Welt and the International Herald Tribune.

Simona-Mirela Miculescu

Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary

Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO

President of the UNESCO General Conference



Amb. Simona-Mirela Miculescu has been holding her current position since 2021. During her 33 years of diplomatic career, she served as Spokesperson for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senior Media Advisor to the Minister, Director of the Press Department, Press Secretary of the Romanian Embassy in Washington D.C., Senior Public Information Officer at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo, Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania, Senior Adviser for Public Outreach to the Government of Iraq, Ambassador extraordinary and

plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Romania to the UN, as well as Representative of the UN Secretary General and Director of the UN Office in Belgrade.

She is the first woman in Romania to be granted the diplomatic rank of ambassador.

Amb. Miculescu is currently serving also as the President of the 42nd Session of the UNESCO General Conference (2023-2025), first Romanian ever to lead a governing body of this organization.

Appendix

The thanking letters from the President Emil Constantinescu and from Dr. Richard Kurin addressed to one of the key organizers, professor Eliot Sorel

ROMÂNIA



PREȘEDINTE

Prof.Dr. Eliot Sorel
School of Medicine and Health Science
The George Washington University
2021 K. Street N.W, Suite 206
Washington D.C. 20006
USA

București, 4 decembrie 1997

Stimate domnule profesor Sorel,

Voiam de mult să vă scriu câteva rânduri pentru a vă spune cât de mult mă impresionează atașamentul și elocința cu care susțineți, pretutindeni și în orice împrejurare, cauza României. Cunosc prea bine prestigiul imens de care vă bucurați în lumea științifică și universitară americană și, implicit, impactul pe care opiniile și sugestiile dumneavoastră le pot avea asupra unor personalități de seamă din domeniul politic, academic, cultural. Faptul că, în toate demersurile pe care le inițiați, puneți în joc, cu atâta generozitate, bunul dumneavoastră nume sporește șansele țării noastre de a stârni interesul celor de peste ocean.

Cu atât mai mult m-am bucurat când am aflat, din întâlnirile pe care le-am avut direct sau prin consilierii mei, precum și din relatările elogioase ale domnului acad. Buzura că sunteți hotărât să vă implicați cu toată autoritatea dumneavoastră morală și intelectuală în generosul program de organizare a Festivalului de tradiții și cultură românească inițiat de prestigiosul Institut Smithsonian din Washington pentru perioada iunie-iulie 1999. Este într-adevăr un program de mare anvergură, cu consecințe mediatice majore pentru imaginea României și a poporului român în Statele Unite și în întreaga lume.

Vă rog să primiți, stimate domnule profesor, expresia sentimentelor mele de grațitudine și prețuire. Si pentru că anul se apropie de sfârșit, vă urez din toată inima *Sărbători fericite* și un *An Nou* cu pace, belșug și multe bucurii.

Emil Constantinescu

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emil Constantinescu'.

PREȘEDINTELE ROMÂNIEI



Smithsonian
Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Smithsonian Folklife Festival
Smithsonian Folkways Recordings
Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections
Cultural Research and Education
Cultural Heritage Policy

October 4, 1999

Dr. Eliot Sorel
10000 Falls Road
Suite 204
Potomac, MD 20854

Dear Eliot,

Let me offer this belated letter of thanks to you for your role in bringing Romania to the National Mall of the United States for the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. You provided a great service to the people of two nations--the United States and Romania--by first proposing and then helping to build a gateway between them.

As you know, the program was a wonderful and thorough success. More than one million people visited the Festival. Media coverage in the United States was extensive, including for example, features on CNN, NBC's Today show, in the Washington Post, etc. The "buzz" around Washington was that the Romania program was one of the finest we've had at the Festival. Visitor surveys confirmed that some 93% felt they learned important information about Romania and had a much better sense of its people and cultures. Many were deeply impressed with the beautifully hand-crafted Romanian church constructed on our National Mall between the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument. As you know, sales of Romanian handicrafts, music, books, and food were strong and hopefully helped open new markets for Romanian producers. Ancillary events emphasizing Romanian technology, wines, tourism, and acquainting political, cultural, and business leaders with Romania contributed to a strong impression of the country. Important also was the ability of the program at the Festival to reunite many Romanian Americans with their ancestral home.

For me, what was most striking was the humanity of the Romanian artists, musicians and craftspeople as they met, embraced and instructed American audiences. Americans saw and understood this humanity and were very taken by it. I think such images will stay with many of those one million visitors and the millions more exposed to the program through the media.

Again, I thank you for your role in first suggesting the idea, the way in which you framed the Festival's possible "healing" function, and for the perseverance you exhibited in developing structures for fund raising, broad institutional participation, and cross-cultural collaboration. I personally appreciated your focussed attention to the project, your constant and continual involvement, and your great ability to mediate legitimate disagreements between parties in a most professional, diplomatic, and sensitive manner.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Richard Kurin
Director



Group photo: Romania
at the Smithsonian
project launch,
June 1999

© Christiane E. Sorel



Romania at
the Smithsonian
Folklife Festival,
USA, 1999

© Eliot Sorel

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MEDIA PARTNERS



Romania at the
Smithsonian Folklife Festival, USA, 1999

