

Magdalena SUCIU & Botond SZŐCS

Violinist & Pianist, Transilvania University of Braşov, Faculty of Music, Romania

Keynote title: *Cultural Soundscapes: The Violin in Chinese and Turkish Heritage*

ABSTRACT:

This presentation delves into the rich musical heritage of China and Turkey through the lens of the violin. It explores how cultural contexts and traditional practices shape the sound of the violin in these two distinct regions. By examining the historical significance and artistic traditions, the session uncovers the nuanced differences that give rise to the distinct tonal qualities of Chinese and Turkish violin music. Live demonstrations featuring fragments from a Chinese concerto and a Turkish sonata will provide an auditory journey that highlights the intricate relationship between culture and music. The violin, a symbol of musical expression, bridges diverse traditions and resonates with the unique voices of China and Turkey.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

Magdalena Suci is pursuing her doctoral studies at Transilvania University in Braşov under the guidance of Prof. dr. Stela Drăgulin, with a thesis titled "The Soloistic Aspect of the Violin in Extra-European Musical Creation". She also serves as a performing artist playing the first violin in the Braşov Philharmonic Orchestra and as a teacher at the Tudor Ciortea Music High School in Braşov.

She pursued her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Faculty of Music of Transilvania University in Braşov, completing them under the supervision of Conf. Dr. Dan Pepelea. Since 2015, she has benefited from the careful guidance of Maestro Ilarion Ionescu-Galaţi. Among her achievements in competitions, she has won First Prize and Jury Prize at the International Erich Bergel – Dorothy Kitchen Competition in Sibiu, 2017, First Prize and Grand Prize at the "Ada Ulubeanu" Competition in Bucharest, 2021, Second Prize at the national stage of the Musical

Interpretation Olympiad, and Second Prize at the National "Paul Constantinescu" Competition in Ploiești (2010, 2012). She has performed recitals on stages in Brașov, Sibiu, Târgoviște, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Bucharest, China, New York, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, and Dubai. From 2009 to 2012, she annually performed as a soloist with the Brașov Philharmonic. She has collaborated extensively with significant orchestras locally, nationally, and internationally, including the Brașov Philharmonic, Brașov Opera, Kamerata Kronstadt, Romanian Youth Orchestra, Romanian Sinfonietta Orchestra, Romania-Moldova Youth Orchestra, and the Youth Orchestra of Italy, among others.

The 28-year-old pianist **Szócs Botond** has made a name for himself in the musical world thanks to his unmistakable energetic temperament, heightened by the intensity of his artistic experiences and manifested through the persuasive power of his interpretation. A student at the Faculty of Music at Transylvania University in Brașov, in the class of Professor Stela Drăgulin, Botond has participated in national and international competitions. After winning over 12 first prizes, the UNIMIR Prize (2012-2013, 2013-2014), and the Community Foundation Prize (2013-2018), his most recent recognition, obtained in 2017, is the Music Award for Excellence from the American Romanian Academy for Arts and Sciences for the best performer as a soloist, member of a chamber music ensemble, or accompanist.

His solo debut, at just 17 years old, with the State Philharmonic Orchestra of Sibiu, was followed by further concert appearances with symphony orchestras in the country: Brașov, Sibiu, Craiova, Arad, Satu Mare, Pitești, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Bacău, Galați, Brăila, Odorheiu Secuiesc, and the "Teleradio - Moldova" Orchestra.

Notable moments in Botond's pianistic rise include his recital programs at home and abroad, such as tours in the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Hungary, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, China, Vietnam, and Cuba.