

#### 4. PROJECT “EASTER TRIPTYCH”

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**Abstract:** *The “Easter Triptych” project was conducted in six annual editions (except for 2020 and 2021 – the years of the Coronavirus Pandemic). It was conceived and achieved in the name and in the spirit of the three important moments in the history of our humanity: Birth, Passion and Joy of the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. This great religious cultural project was attended by important personalities of Iași and not only, such as lyrical artists from the Romanian National Opera Iași, church persons from the Metropolitan Church of Moldavia and Bukovina, university professors, ethnographers, craftsmen and students. We were joined by Radio Romania Cultural Bucharest, Radio Iasi, TV Iasi, Radio “Trinitas” and “Moldova” National Museum Complex Iasi. With this important project, I also went to Austria, Vienna, to the Romanian Cultural Center and to the Republic of Moldova, to “Alecu Russo” State University Balti. Each edition presented under its generous scope, equally traditions, customs and beliefs firmly established in our soul and conscience as Romanians. The events included moments of musical art: classical musical works (lyrical, instrumental, choral), Christmas carols, Easter songs, religious poems, book launches, exhibitions of decorated eggs from the Bukovina area, exhibitions of icons, crosses, carpets woven in monasteries, ceramic objects from Horezu, wooden sculpture objects and traditional folk costumes. In addition to these, there was a CD: “Easter Triptych”.*

**Key words:** *Easter Triptych, the Birth, Passion and Resurrection of Our Savior Jesus Christ*

##### 1. Introduction

Every year, in spring, when nature wakes up and rejuvenates with new clothes in raw, shy and fresh green whereas the scent of flowers (snowdrops, daffodils, lilies of the valley, tulips) fill the senses with their fine and incomparable perfumes and aromas, we, the Christians, celebrate the most important and beautiful religious holiday: the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We share the same complete joy every year as an invaluable gift, without showing any signs of repetitive boredom, transfiguring ourselves each time into the reality of the old men of wisdom and history. Therefore holidays make us contemporary with the world of the ancients in Pateric.

It is a long-awaited meeting, a “unique” and seemingly unrepeatable meeting that comes in complete agreement with the rebirth of spring in the surrounding nature. It is our joy to meet the Living Water from God’s Kingdom, which is why the windows of our souls always seem ready to receive properly the Light of the Resurrection from Jerusalem, from the Holy Sepulcher. Therefore, the joy for the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is transfigured into the joy for the holy connection between God and us, between Heaven and Earth. These Holy Holidays have the gift of making us better, more understanding, more tolerant of the people around us, in order to love God more, to plant in our souls the fruitful “seed” of goodness, love, friendship, understanding and self-help. Thus, God opens the eyes of our souls, helps us to live our lives vertically, not only horizontally..

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## **2. Discussions**

The “Easter Triptych” project, carried out in 6 annual editions (except for 2020 and 2021 - the years of the Coronavirus Pandemic) had the gift of celebrating this wonderful holiday; it was conceived and made in the name and spirit of the three important moments in the history of our humanity: the Birth of the Savior, the Passion of the Savior and the Joy of the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Each edition gathered under its generous scope, equally traditions, customs and beliefs firmly established in our souls and conscience as Romanians. The events included moments of musical art: classical musical works (lyrical, instrumental, choral), Christmas carols, Easter songs, religious poems, book launches, exhibitions of decorated eggs from the Bukovina area, exhibitions of icons, crosses, carpets woven in monasteries, pottery objects from Horezu, wood carving objects and traditional folk costumes.

In addition to these there was a CD: "Triptych Easter". It was made together with the mezzo-soprano Laura Magdalena Scripcaru, a soloist at the Romanian National Opera Iasi and it benefited from the support of the Metropolitan Church of Moldavia and Bukovina and the blessing of His Eminence Father Teofan, our Metropolitan Priest. This is how the musical works and the poetic pages proposed for listening to the music-loving public were chosen with great care, love and devotion for this special religious holiday, the most important for Christians.

The Romanian religious pieces belong to well-known composers (some of them from Iași) such as: Gavriil Musicescu, Tiberiu Brediceanu, Nicolae Lungu, Gheorghe Cucu, Gheorghe Dima, Vasile Spătărelu, Viorel Munteanu, Vladimir Ciolac, Romeo Cozma and Ciprian Ion. While listening to these prayers that come from the depths of the Christian history, (themselves being true theological teachings), our soul is filled with emotion, a mysterious, holy, mysterious thrill of love, comfort for the truths of sacredness. Life, living, our soul weeping and burdened by so many worries, daily burdens and sufferings, feels during the Holy Easter, the good protective hand of our Savior Jesus Christ. His words, deeds, comforts and promises descend to us like clean, crystal clear mountain water. The universal religious works bear the signature of important authors such as: Giulio Caccini, Cezar Franck and Max Reger. The religious poems carry us on the wings of well-known literary talents such as: Mihai Eminescu, George Coșbuc, Ștefan O. Iosif, Ion Pillat, Otilia Cazimir, Ion Creangă and Vasile Militaru.

## **3. Results**

This Holy Christian Holiday reminds us that Jesus Christ was sent by God, that he was God - the Son, a fact proved by His own Resurrection. Through His works, the Savior teaches us that we are not alone on Earth, that all our hope is in God, our Creator, that He is the one who cares for us, and we will all return to Him in His Kingdom. That's where we'll all meet after we get out of here. The essence of the Savior's teaching is that we are immortal. If we did not know that we are immortal, if we did not know that God exists, if we did not have the Savior's teaching and the moral and spiritual order established by Him in the world, if we

did not know how to answer questions such as: "Where do we come from?" and "Where do we go?" and "What is the point here on Earth?", we would be lost, disoriented, very sad, abandoned and very lonely beings. That is why the Resurrection is considered the most beautiful "Gift" offered by God to mankind. How many times have I not uttered the words "Lord, help me!" And our Savior Jesus Christ, the one who suffered on the Cross for our sins, brings comfort, forgiveness, patience, love and healing to the human soul that is troubled, bewildered, traumatized by so many seen and unseen sufferings.

When we reach our unbearable limits with our suffering, when our souls feel only tears, when everything seems useless to us, when we see no hope, no compensation for the evil that occurs to us in extraordinary circumstances, the Savior comes and addresses us His words of consolation. We, humans, feel His protective and soothing hand on our heads and His healing power descends on us to soothe us. It is perhaps the last peace, the hope that we are waiting for and that comes to strengthen our souls.... It is the hope after the loss of any hope. And the Coronavirus Pandemic has shown us many times that we need God's support, strength, and mercy for bodily and especially spiritual healing.

Throughout the six annual editions, the "Easter Triptych" project was the result of searches, turmoil, sleepless nights and last but not least the result of many religious stage performances throughout an entire artistic and teaching career. The joy of meeting God in those moments of grace and emotional emotion, artistic and especially spiritual emotion, far exceeded the prestige and notoriety of secular artistic and didactic achievements / performances (piano and orchestra concerts, recitals, chamber concerts in the country and abroad , opera performances, an author of books, nominations in specialized books), diplomas of professional recognition, etc).

Our Christian life is under the sign of the Holy Holidays marked in red on the calendar. Just as the stars, the moon, and the other celestial bodies revolve around the sun, so do human lives rotate after the cosmic beat of the two great Christian holidays: Christmas and Easter. Throughout the beautiful period of the Easter holiday, the peace is spread over all the people and all the surrounding things because everything has a divine aura. It is an emotion, joy, a unique and unspeakably beautiful and uplifting inner feeling. Our whispers, our prayers, all our tears, all our hopes go on those holy and pure days to God and his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, with light and humility, love and strong faith. The bells of our churches long for divine fragrance and incense, and call us all to turn our faces and souls to purification, salvation, and forgiveness. This is how no one, old or young, rich or poor, educated or less educated, is sad.

At the end of Lent appears the moment of Confession and Communion, of inner transformation. The people from the country regain their composure but do not forget to take care of everything around them: the house, the yard, the garden, the cattle, the field. Little by little, everyone enjoys this Holy Christian Feast. On the night of the Resurrection, in clean clothes, people go to church to pray with their priests, to receive the light of the Resurrection, to take it home and keep it in a secret, clean and blessed place. Every meal, every meeting between people, every

day greeting, they are related to the Resurrection of our Savior: "Christ is risen! He has truly risen!" In the context of these wonderful things, the religious cultural project "Easter Triptych" gives us the joy of sharing the treasure of the prayers, in what they have more splendid and eternal. These beautiful church songs, true divine poems whose simple songs wore a literary coat, carry the scent of heaven descended to Earth. Their musical texture, the depth and wisdom of the conveyed message, deeply touch the strings of our feeling and seem to interpret in the most wonderful way the teaching of love: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

At Easter, there is a ceremony of divine essence, namely the ceremony of painting eggs that become true works of art. It is a ceremony performed particularly in the area of Bukovina. Beautifully placed in woven baskets, along with the other dishes (the Easter cake, the lamb steak), they will be taken to church to be consecrated, after the long and saving Lent. They are so beautifully crafted and so beautifully decorated that they look like works of art that miraculously borrowed the colors of spring: green, yellow, red, blue.... divine mystery. The eggs do not resemble to each other. They are all dressed in floral clothes and under the spell of peace and sacredness. Before painting an egg, each craftsman makes the sign of the cross and says a prayer. In fact, our peasant begins every work thinking about God and making the sign of the cross.

Following the thread of our story about painted eggs, we must also remember the fact that the instrument with which these painted eggs are decorated is called "chisita". But the oldest feathers for the beautification of these eggs were the goose feather and the pen, the one with which we also began, the oldest mystery of the letters of the alphabet. The used colors are natural, from plants, fruit peels or vegetables. They work with chicken, duck, goose and even ostrich eggs. On these eggs we find traditional motifs from the peasants and towels, but also signs of Christianity such as crosses, churches, monasteries, the faces of the Savior and His Mother, the Virgin Mary. In Vama Veche town, in Suceava, there is a Museum of Decorated Eggs that brings together 6,000 beautifully decorated eggs both from Bukovina and from all over the world.

In this great religious cultural project, we had the joy of meeting important personalities of our beloved city of Iași and not only, such as lyrical artists from the Romanian National Opera Iași (the mezzo-soprano Laura Magdalena Scripcaru and the soprano Mihaela Grăjdeanu), church persons from the Metropolitan Church of Moldavia and Bukovina, university professors from "G. Enescu" National University of Arts Iași, ethnographers, folk craftsmen from the areas: Vama Veche (Gabriela Lucuțan), Moșna - Iași (Valentina Uhrenciuc), Neamț (Vânători Tg. Neamț), and students. We were joined by Radio Romania Cultural Bucharest, Radio Iasi, TV Iasi and Radio "Trinitas". We also enjoyed the support of "Moldova" National Museum Complex Iasi, by supporting performances in the wonderful museum "Union" and in "M. Kogălniceanu" Memorial Museum".

With this important project, I had the honour to go to the Republic of Moldova, in a cultural and religious combination on both sides of the Prut. This is how we enjoyed the hospitality and collaboration of our colleagues from "Alecu Russo" State University Bălți, respectively with Prof. PhD. Ion Gagim and Mrs.

Assoc. Prof. PhD. Margareta Tetelea. We can also say with great joy that the Good God in His great generosity helped us to arrive at the Romanian Cultural Center in Austria, Vienna - in the city of the waltz, the city of Johann Strauss. It was truly a musical-religious meeting with the Romanians who left and settled there for many years, but also with German spectators pleasantly impressed by the emotion of the artistic and religious event.

All the musical evenings within this great cultural project benefited from the presence of the church persons that brought an extra spiritual experience, of strengthening and preparing us for the proper celebration of the Holy Easter Holidays. Among the priests who honored us with their presence at our performances we mention the priest Iulian Negru, the priest Ilie Dănut Popovici, the priest Adrian Constantin Chelaru and the priest Florin Cristea. They were joined by Angela Paveliuc Olariu, PhD in ethnography - all from the Metropolitan Church of Moldavia and Bukovina. Among the university professors from "George Enescu" National University of Arts Iași, I had the pleasure of some beautiful and fruitful collaborations with Assoc. Prof. PhD. Octaviana Marincaș, Assoc. Prof. PhD. Cătălina Chelaru, Assoc. Prof. PhD. Irina Zamfira Dănilă (the conductor of "Floralia" choir), Lect. PhD. Consuela Țaga (the conductor of "Cantissimo" choir), Lect. PhD. Luminița Ciobanu, the Candidate Doctoral Anca Carp.

#### **4. Conclusions**

Therefore, the religious cultural project "Easter Triptych" gathered lovers of beauty, people who wanted to stop at the Gate of Heaven, to talk to God, to dress with beautiful spring clothes. It was like a consonance of our daily lives with the light of faith and the embrace with the power of thought of God's kingdom. That is why this great cultural and religious project is like a GIFT that came from the heart for the souls of Christians who love eternal life. Let us meditate deeply on our days about the royal joy of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. For even on the Crucified Cross, our Good and Merciful Savior, looked upon people with indulgence, forgiveness and love.

#### **References**

##### **Lucrări religioase**

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Caccini Giulio - "Ave Maria"  
Ciola Vasile - "Tatal nostru"  
Cozma Romeo - "Iubite-voi Doamne", "Ridica-voi ochii mei", "Doamne Dumnezeul meu"  
Cucu Gheorghe - "Milueste-ma Dumnezeule"  
Dima Gheorghe - "Doamne Iisuse Hristoase"  
Franck Cesar - "Panis Angelicus"  
Franck Jules - "Marie est notre mere"  
Ion Ciprian - "Lumina lina"

Musicescu Gavriil - "Doamne buzele mele", "Pre Tine Te Laudam", "Doamne Iubit-am", "Bindecuvantarea Domnului"

Schubert Franz - "Ave Maria"

**Colinde Pascale:** "Veniti, norii de multime", "Multimea norodului"

**Poezii:** "Povestea Maicii Domnului" (Ion Pilat), "Ruga" (Otilia Cazimir), "Rugaciune" (Ştefan O Iosif), "Rugaciune" (Mihai Eminescu), "La Pasti" (George Coşbuc), "Hristos a Inviat" (Vasile Militaru)