Romanian Weekend at The Wharf Is Back for Its Second Edition on July 7-9, 2023!



Highlighting the diverse and vibrant Romanian community, the second annual Romanian Weekend at The Wharf in Washington, DC will include tastings of Romanian wine, Romanian foods, folk dancing, folk and ethno jazz concerts, craft demonstrations and spoken word performances. This free, all-ages event showcases an array of talented artists that span the breadth of Romanian culture including the "Transylvania" National Folk Ensemble, Romanian-American band "Four Corners", culture and arts organization "Bucharest Inside the Beltway," and more. Attendees can also experience an interactive folk costume exhibition, learn pottery technique, and enjoy live wood carving demonstrations. Romanian Weekend at The Wharf will highlight tourist opportunities in Romania, one of Europe's last windows to the past. The culture

and geography of Romania is an eclectic mix of modern and old Europe with pristine natural environments. A full weekend schedule is included below.

Romanian Weekend at The Wharf is presented by the <u>Embassy of Romania to the United</u> <u>States of America</u> and the <u>Romanian Cultural Institute</u>.

Select artists (highlighted in blue below) will be available for in-studio interviews in advance of the event. Others are available by phone or Zoom. – Please email casie@prcollaborative.com to request an interview.

Festival Location: 760 Maine Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

Hours: Friday: 5pm – 9pm Saturday: 12pm – 7:30pm Sunday: 12pm – 7:30pm

For more information, visit www.romanianfestivaldc.com.

About the Artists

"Transylvania" Ensemble

The National Folk Ensemble "Transylvania", based in Baia Mare, Maramureş County, was founded in 1959 with the specific aim to treasure and promote the immemorial folk traditions of Northwestern Romania, preserved from generation to generation to this day. The ensemble fulfills its mission through performances that offer authentic and spectacular displays of the richness of Maramureş region arts, crafts, and traditions. At the same time, "Transylvania" recitals offer the occasion to parade superb folk costumes and beautiful hand-made jewelry, made by artisans who pride themselves of preserving age-old techniques.

Ana Everling & Taraf de Chicago

Ana Everling & Taraf de Chicago, a multinational group fronted by Romanian-American singer and visual artist Ana Everling, is best known for their original arrangements that invest singalong Romanian folk melodies with American tonalities to create an electrifying musical melting pot. Formed in Chicago in 2019, Ana Everling & Taraf de Chicago sprang out of Ana Everling's love for Romanian folklore – carols, merry songs, wedding laments, doinas, dance music, children tunes, infused with tales, riddles, proverbs and old sayings predominantly from Ana's native region, Bessarabia. While the basic scores are Romanian melodies, the instrumentation brings a strong American influence, replacing the traditional cimbalom with the banjo, the accordion with the piano and electric guitar, and adding instruments like clarinet, saxophone or various percussion instruments.

Ana Everling & Taraf de Chicago is: Ana Everling – vocals, percussion; Olya Adkison – violin, vocals; Hunter Diamond – clarinet, saxophone, percussion; Stephanie Pielok – violin; Patrick Donley – guitar, banjo; Alex Brescanu – whistle, caval; Kitt Lyles – bass

"Carpathia" Folk Dance Ensemble

Founded in 2011, "Carpathia" Folk Dance Ensemble is a Washington, D.C.-based multi-ethnic folk-dance group that has become well-known for its authentic performances of Romanian traditional dances. The all-volunteer group performs dances from all regions of Romania and includes both performers of Romanian origin and people who, without having Romanian roots, are nevertheless fascinated with Romanian culture and tradition. During our event, you can watch "Carpathia" perform a variety of Romanian dances such as Alunelu', Rustem, Geamparale, and more.

Four Corners

Four Corners is a collaborative effort of Romanian-American and American players who blend improvisational jazz and oriental folklore into a unique, irresistible vibe. Four Corners combine elements of a multitude of genres to create their own, unique style of music that is shown to induce some kind of a 'soul tremor' that would appeal to one's sensibility and transport them to a place of musical meaning. Four Corners is: Dan Purcea – guitar; Daniel Vielleneuve – percussion; Stephen Goldbaum – drums; Ramon Radosav – violin; Stephen Goldbaum – bass.

Andreea Rebăltescu

Born in the beautiful Bistriţa Năsăud County, in Romania, at the bottom of the stunning Rodna Mountains, folk singer Andreea Rebăltescu pursued her dreams and emigrated to the USA in 2006 after graduating from the esteemed Gheorghe Dima Conservatory in Cluj. From the moment she arrived in the USA, she proudly represented Romania captivating audiences at various public and private events.

Andreea is committed to showcasing the beauty of Romanian traditional folk songs and costumes from different regions of her beloved country. For Romanian Weekend at the Wharf, she collaborated with Salagean Robert, a music producer at Salagean Music in Romania, who arranged the music accompanying Andrea's performance. The repertoire, featuring songs famously sung by the legendary Maria Tănase, is not to be missed. Andreea's unwavering passion for her craft shines through in every note she sings and every step she takes in upholding and promoting the cultural heritage of Romania.

Bucharest Inside The Beltway

Literature has brought Romanians and Americans together since the dawn of our transatlantic friendship. Discover a trove of recent books by Romanian-American authors and enjoy spoken word performances curated and co-managed by Bucharest Inside the Beltway (BiB, bibdenver.com).

About the Craftsmen

The Potter's House

Potter Vasile Chira of Cărbunari village is one of the legendary craftsmen that Maramureş County is happy and proud to have. His mentor, Liviu Sitar introduced Vasile Chira to pottery which has been his passion for the last 20 years. Chira is now a master of the clay and the continuator of an important tradition in terms of forms and artistic themes. Vasile Chira is eager to share his talent and craft with those willing to learn.

Wood Carving Demonstrations

The lands of Maramureş are blessed with secular forests and this extraordinary natural wealth has had a major influence on culture and craftsmanship. Come and meet wood craftsman loan Bârsan who proudly carries forward the work of his father, Toader. Our wood craftsman keeps alive the tradition of working in wood and creates monumental works as well as household and decorative objects.

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For more information, visit <u>www.romanianfestivaldc.com</u>.