

**Sergiu Celibidache is the symbol of the Romanian talent
and strength to succeed: from Roman, Neamt, to the whole world**

by Adela Vrinceanu – Communication Director, Sergiu Celibidache Foundation

The Sergiu Celibidache Festival represents, from my point of view, a moral obligation of each Romanian: that of celebrating the 100 years since the birth of the Maestro, but also a moral obligation towards us as Romanians, to honor the values that our country has given to the world.

We are a country lately overwhelmed by an unfavorable image outside of the borders and we have this tendency to turn into people without national pride, without trust in ourselves, for various reasons... too many to mention here. We have great names, names that have imposed themselves internationally; we have people that have carried with trust the Romanian flag, everywhere they have been. We have unofficial ambassadors that have contributed to the improvement of our image in the world. We are not doing enough for these Romanians and automatically, we are not doing enough for ourselves, as citizens of Romania.

Sergiu Celibidache has carried inside himself the drama of not ever seeing his parents again, but nothing stopped him from following his dream

The story of the life of Sergiu Celibidache is fascinating. He stands for the power of achieving your dreams, of never giving up, no matter how many obstacles may appear. Sergiu Celibidache left Romania when he was very young. He left everything behind because he wanted to become a composer. He has carried inside himself the drama of not ever seeing his parents again, but nothing stopped him from following his dream.

We, the Sergiu Celibidache Foundation, bring him back home with his dream fulfilled. We bring him home not only as one of the greatest conductors of all times, but we bring him back as a composer.

I consider the title of his composition, “Haz de necaz”, to be extremely symbolic. Firstly, it is impossible to translate; it is a purely typical Romanian way to surpass difficulties, to treat life in a fun way even in the hardest conditions. I can even imagine him, in his home from La Neuville sur Essonne, composing with this title, which surely represents a personal way of always moving... forward.

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Our festival is more than music. Through the selected pieces and artists, the artistic program is specifically planned in order to be in harmony with the centennial that we are celebrating. The master-classes have free entrance, so as to respect the maestro’s credo: that of offering an equal chance to everyone, making the access to culture free for every individual.

But our festival is more than that; it represents a chance for audiences to get to know closer an inspirational life story. The festival offers every man the chance to understand this life example and it also encourages this way of life, of following your dream, of never giving up. We underline the importance of believing in your destiny and in the idea that life arranges itself in our favor. There is a much deeper symbol than in appearance. For me, personally, the story of Sergiu Celibidache inspires me such that rarely any other life story has inspired me. The fact that a Romanian can succeed, at such a level, with obstacles at every step of the way, in such a dire period in terms of world political context, leaves me breathless.

I consider it is important to be able to have access to all information. How we filter that information and what we select as being representative to us and to the life which we live or which we would like to live - that is another matter. But at least we have alternatives.

In this moment, in Romania, another kind of alternatives are promoted; the profile that gets attention and interest is at the opposite end and we judge ourselves very harshly. The correct way is to offer the possibility of choice. And we encourage brave choices, maybe unbelievably brave choices, like the ones Celibidache made. Nothing is impossible. Any dream, no matter how improbable or unconscious or daring it is, can be followed. There is only one option, that of succeeding. The power of the example – this is a limitless source of inspiration, the electrifying living proof that it can be done.

It is important to have access to this inspirational universe to us as people. During two months, we offer this access to everybody: from movies, to photo exhibition, to book launches, master-classes, concerts... All these events will delineate Sergiu Celibidache's personality, so that every man can have access to a magic universe, a 100% Romanian universe, which an entire world rejoiced.

It is the moment to honor our values, it is the moment to awaken from the lethargic state and look at the half full side of the glass of being Romanian. A people with so much talent deserve more, as the Maestro said in a material filmed when he returned home after the revolution. It is a first step towards a new universe, towards a new approach of being Romanian both nationally and internationally.

Sergiu Celibidache Festival is a festival about Romanians, about the Romanian potential, about the possibility to succeed as a Romanian, about the importance of being conscience of our interior richness and of coming into the world with the head up high. It may sound as a political speech, but they are all words that come from within and from an unbreakable conviction that we all deserve more.

The same way we go out into the streets all the time to manifest against somebody, we have enough reasons to go out into the street and applaud a Romanian. And I cannot see any reason why we wouldn't, I cannot see any reason for which we shouldn't offer ourselves this joy of celebrating the quality – and I emphasize the quality – of being Romanian.

And Sergiu Celibidache is the symbol of this quality, the symbol of the Romanian talent and of the power to succeed: from Roman, Neamt, to the whole world.