

**Thomas Beimel**, composer, musicologist, violist was born in 1967 in Essen, Germany. Starting as a viola player, he finalized music studies and instrumental pedagogics at Hochschule für Musik im Rheinland. In 1989 he founded together with other musicians the ensemble *Partita Radicale*, specializing in the field between improvisation and composition. Since 1993, the ensemble worked with outstanding Romanian composers (there are two CDs with contemporary Romanian music released by *sonoton*, Munich).

Since 1991, Thomas Beimel has made several musicological researches resulting in book publications on the music of the Belgium composer Jacqueline Fontyn, and of the Romanian composer Myriam Marbe. Since 1998, he conceived many broadcasts on topics like contemporary music in Romania and Latin America, classical modern music in Eastern Europe, music and rhetoric.

Since 1994 Thomas Beimel works also as composer. In the summer of 1997 he studied privately composition with Myriam Marbe, Bucharest. In 1999, his first opera was premiered at Stadttheater Mönchengladbach, Germany. Stage activities were continued in June 2001 by the theatre music for the first integral drama adaption of Franz Kafka's novel *In der Strafkolonie*, opera house, Wuppertal. In 2002, *faltenbalg*, a stereophonic composition for five orchestras of accordions, was premiered.

Thomas Beimel received a special award for composition, *Impulse*, 2004. He was 2005-2006 composer-in-residence, *Internationales Künstlerhaus Villa Concordia*, Bamberg.

**Nicolae Brânduş** (Brînduş), born in Bucharest, the 16 April 1935, studied piano and composition at the National University of Music in Bucharest. He attended the Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt (1969 - 1980) and Aix-en-Provence (1979). In 1985 he worked in the Musical Research Department at IRCAM – Paris and in 1996, in Bourges, he realized at GMEB an electronic music. He performed as pianist both in Romania and abroad for many years and earned his Doctorate in Musicology – PhD (1981).

*Professional activity:* Soloist pianist at the Philharmonic of Ploieşti (Romania), 1960-1969; Professor of chamber music at the National University of Music in Bucharest, 1969-1981 and 1992-2005. Consulting professor and scientific adviser (2005-). Editor Revista *Muzica* – Bucharest: 1981-. Member of the ISCM Executive Committee (1991-1993), President of the Romanian Section of the ISCM (1994-2002).

*He has received the following distinctions:* The Order of Cultural Merit (1969); Honorary Mention at the International Competition Prince Pierre de Monaco (1973); the Union of Romanian Composers' and Musicologists' Prizes (1974, 2002, 2005); the Prizes of the Romanian Radio and Television Broadcasting Society for Opera and Vocal-symphonic music (1975, 1977), the "George Enescu" Prize of the Romanian Academy; Officer of the Cultural Merit Order (Bucharest 2005).

*Among his compositions*, the most known are the operas *Logodna (The Betrothal)*, 1964 – 1966), *La Țigănci (With the Gipsy Girls)*, 1978-1985) and *Tarr & Fether* (2003-2009), the cantatas *Domnișoara Hus*, *Inscripție*, the *Ballad Symphony*, other symphonic works: *Phtora*, *Antifonia*, *Match*, *SinEuphonia II*, *Tubulatures*, *European Parody*, two *Piano concertos*, the *Oratorio on texts of the Evangel of Thomas*, also chamber music, instrumental theatre, vocal and choral music, electronic and computer music.

His works have been performed in Romania's major cities as well as abroad (Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Germany, USA, France, Belgium, Holland, Great Britain, Greece, Bulgaria, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Slovenia, a.o.).

Brânduş wrote the book *Interferences* (Editura Muzicală, 1981), published articles, essays and studies; he has been on lecture tours as visiting composer in the USA, Germany, Israel, Greece, Hong Kong etc.

**Ştefan Firca** is a musicologist and lecturer at the National University of Music in Bucharest, department of Musicology. He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from the Ohio State University, with a dissertation on the carnivalesque aspects of the late 1960s psychedelic culture. In 2013 he finished a MIDAS post-doctoral program at the National University of Music in Bucharest. With experience in the history of both art music and rock music, he has published on topics ranging from Henry Purcell to Giacinto Scelsi, but is particularly interested in the popular culture of the 20th century, the nexus between avant-garde and popular music, film and film music, and issues of cultural imagination. He is the author of two forthcoming books: *Imbroglia* (Bucharest: Editura Muzicală, 2014) and *Circles and Circuses: Carnavalesque Tropes in the Late 1960s Musical and Cultural Imagination* (his Ph.D. dissertation, to be published in 2015).

**Radu Mihalache** (b.1990) is currently studying musicology at the National University of Music Bucharest, under the supervision of Valentina Sandu-Dediu. His main focus is the study of Early Music, and he is also interested in correlating musicology and the media, as a collaborator (since 2011) with the Romanian Broadcasting Company (Radio România Muzical). During the academic year 2012-2013 he studied, due to an Erasmus grant, at Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain.

**Mihai Murariu** (b.1984) has studied piano at the *George Enescu Music Highschool* in Bucharest. In 2003 he started studying classical composition at the National University of Music Bucharest with Dan Dediu, Doina Rotaru, Octavian Nemescu, Nicolae Coman, Dan Buciu. Since then he has won several prizes at national and international composition competitions and his pieces have been performed in some of the most important festivals in the country and on many other stages, including abroad (Rome, Helsinki, etc). Mihai Murariu has continued his activity as a performer in chamber and contemporary music ensembles, as a soloist, and as an accompanist. He has also collaborated with several of the most important orchestras and art institutions in the country (the George Enescu Philharmonic, the National Radio Orchestra, the National Radio Chamber Orchestra, the Bucharest National Opera, the Bucharest National Theatre). Since 2012, he is an organist at the St. Joseph Roman Catholic Cathedral in Bucharest. Mihai Murariu has just finished his doctorate studies at the National University of Music Bucharest and works now as an associate assistant in the same university.