

ROBERT COZMA – composer, arranger, instrumentalist (trombone, piano), teaching assistant (PhD)

Robert Cozma (born 1993) is a jazz musician and composer whose musical journey began at the "Octav Băncilă" National College of Art in Iași, Romania. His passion for jazz led him to the "George Enescu National University of Arts" in Iași, where he majored in Jazz Composition. Here, he honed his craft and showcased his talent through participation in various recitals, concerts, and student jazz festivals, quickly establishing himself within the local jazz community.

In pursuit of advanced studies, he received an Erasmus scholarship during the 2016-2017 academic year at the Hochschule für Musik in Nuremberg, Germany, where he specialized in Jazz Trombone under the guidance of Professor Jürgen Neudert, graduating in the summer of 2019. His studies included not only trombone performance but also extensive coursework in jazz theory and composition. From 2019 to 2021, he deepened his compositional skills and jazz arrangements techniques under the mentorship of Steffen Schorn, while also studying jazz piano with renowned pianists Rainer Böhm and Andreas Feith, who are considered leading figures in contemporary German jazz.

In 2019, he was invited by the renowned Sunday Night Orchestra in Nuremberg (Germany) to write a big band arrangement of Christoph Willibald Gluck's "Almen se non possio" as part of the "Gluck Festspiele". In 2020, he was commissioned to compose a work entitled "A Special View", inspired by the second movement of Beethoven's 7th Symphony, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth. In September 2021, he was invited to rehearse and conduct a full concert of his music with the Sunday Night Orchestra.

In January 2022, Robert Cozma was a guest of the NDR Big Band in Hamburg (Germany) as part of the „Podium for Composers and Conductors”, where his composition „Midnight Visions” was conducted by David Hveem (NO).

In 2022, Robert Cozma became a member of the Union of Composers and Musicologists of Romania, reflecting his growing influence in the field. He completed his Doctorate in Music at the "George Enescu" National University of Arts in Iași, with a dissertation titled "Jazz Styles and Writing Techniques for Big Band in My Own Works," developed under the guidance of Professor PhD Leonard Dumitriu (2023).

Presently, Robert Cozma serves as a Teaching Assistant (PhD) at the "George Enescu" National University of Arts in Iași, where he teaches Jazz Composition and Improvisation.

His contributions to the jazz scene have been recognized through a series of prestigious awards:

- 2014: the Popularity Award with the ensemble "Jazzissimo" at the Sibiu Jazz Festival (RO)
- 2015: the Special Jury Prize at the International Student Jazz Festival in Târgu Mureș (RO)
- 2015: 3rd prize with "Jazzissimo" at the Sibiu Jazz Festival (RO)
- 2015: the award for Best Instrumentalist – Improviser at the International Student Jazz Festival in Târgu Mureș (RO) followed
- 2018: Best Instrumentalist Soloist at the Johnny Răducanu International Jazz Competition Festival in Brăila (RO)

