

# Contents

Preface		11
About the author		13
Foreword Petre Roman		15
Foreword Sir George Iacobescu		17
Ada Solomon	<i>Art</i>	19
Adina Pintilie	<i>Media</i>	20
Adrian Bejan - <i>Prof.univ.dr</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	21
Adrian Florea	<i>Business, Education</i>	27
Adrian Homan	<i>Business</i>	28
Adrian Laza	<i>Sports, Education</i>	29
Adrian Papahagi - <i>Prof.univ.dr. habil.</i>	<i>Education</i>	30
Alex Cernătescu	<i>Business, Education</i>	31
Alex Gâlmeanu	<i>Art</i>	32
Alexandra Nechita	<i>Art</i>	33
Alina Andriuță	<i>Business, Education</i>	34
Alina Dumitru	<i>Sports</i>	35
Ana Blandiana - <i>Acad.</i>	<i>Art, Education</i>	36
Ana Maria Brânză	<i>Sports</i>	37
Anca Damian	<i>Art, Media</i>	38
Andreea Răducan	<i>Sports</i>	39
Andrei Dunuță	<i>Business, Education</i>	40
Andrei Marga - <i>Prof.univ.dr. habil.</i>	<i>Education, Politics</i>	41
Andrei Roșu	<i>Education, Sports</i>	42
Andrei Țăranu - <i>Prof.univ.dr. habil.</i>	<i>Education</i>	43
Andy Szekely	<i>Business, Education</i>	44
Anghel Iordănescu	<i>Politics, Sports</i>	45
Avram Iancu	<i>Education, Sports</i>	48
Bogdan Dumitrache	<i>Art</i>	49
Bogdan Marcu - <i>Dr. Aerospace</i>	<i>Science</i>	50
Bogdan Micu	<i>Business, Science</i>	51
Călin Iepure	<i>Business, Education</i>	52
Cătălin Prișcorniță	<i>Business, Education</i>	55
Cătălina Ponor	<i>Sports</i>	56
Charlie Ottley	<i>Social Activist, Media</i>	57
Cleopatra Stratan	<i>Art</i>	61
Constantin Necula - <i>Priest</i>	<i>Education, Theology</i>	62
Constantina Diță	<i>Sports</i>	70
Corina Șuteu	<i>Media</i>	73
Cornel Amariei	<i>Business, Science</i>	84
Corneliu Porumboiu	<i>Education, Media</i>	85

Cristi Puiu	<i>Art, Media</i>	86
Cristian Munteanu	<i>Business</i>	87
Cristian Onețiu	<i>Business, Education</i>	88
Cristian Presură - <i>Dr</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	94
Dacian Pribeanu	<i>Education, Sports</i>	95
Dan Luca	<i>Business, Education</i>	96
Dan Negru	<i>Media</i>	97
Dana Săvuică	<i>Business, Media</i>	98
Daniel Relenschi	<i>Art</i>	99
Daniela Rus - <i>Prof.</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	100
David Popovici	<i>Sports</i>	101
Doina Ignat	<i>Sports</i>	102
Dorin Ștefan - <i>Architect</i>	<i>Business, Science</i>	103
Doru Dima - <i>Dr.psh.</i>	<i>Business, Education</i>	104
Dragoș Petrescu	<i>Business, Education</i>	110
Dumitru Dulcan - <i>Prof.dr</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	111
Dumitru Prunariu - <i>Dr.ing</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	112
Ecaterina Andronescu - <i>Prof.dr.ing.</i>	<i>Education, Politics</i>	113
Elena Moșuc	<i>Art</i>	114
Elisabeta Lipă	<i>Sports</i>	115
Emil Hurezeanu	<i>Media, Politics</i>	118
Eugen Chirovici	<i>Education, Media</i>	119
Eugen Terteleac	<i>Education, Politics</i>	120
Eusebiu Burcaș	<i>Business, Education</i>	121
Felicia Akkaya	<i>Business, Education</i>	122
Felix Pătrășcanu	<i>Business, Education</i>	130
Flaviu Cicirean	<i>Business, Education</i>	133
Florentina Ion	<i>Business, Education</i>	137
Florian Sălăjeanu	<i>Social Activist, Politics</i>	138
Florin Călinescu	<i>Business, Media</i>	139
Florin Madar	<i>Business</i>	140
Florin Munteanu - <i>Prof.dr.ing</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	141
Florin Talpeș	<i>Education, Business</i>	142
Gabriel Păun	<i>Social Activist</i>	143
Gabriela Szabo	<i>Sports</i>	144
George Becali	<i>Business, Politics</i>	145
George Copos	<i>Business</i>	146
George Dumitrașcu - <i>Conductor</i>	<i>Art, Education</i>	147
George Iacobescu - <i>Sir</i>	<i>Business, Science</i>	148
George Ivașcu	<i>Actor</i>	159
George Scripcaru	<i>Politics</i>	160
Georgeta Andrunache	<i>Sports</i>	161
Gheorghe Hagi	<i>Business, Sports</i>	162
Gheorghe Mureșan	<i>Sports</i>	163
Gina Calagiu	<i>Business, Education</i>	166
Horățiu Suciuc - <i>Prof.dr.</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	172
Horățiu Țepeș	<i>Business</i>	173
Iancu Guda - <i>CFA, EMBA</i>	<i>Business, Education</i>	178
Ianis Scutaru	<i>Sports</i>	179

Ilarion Urs - <i>PS Episcop-vicar</i>	<i>Education, Theology</i>	180
Ileana Nicolae	<i>Business, Education</i>	181
Ioan Lascăr - <i>Prof.dr.</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	182
Ion Cristoiu	<i>Media</i>	183
Ionela Țirlea	<i>Sports</i>	184
Ionuț Caragea	<i>Education</i>	185
Jean Valvis	<i>Business, Education</i>	186
László Borbély - <i>Dr. in Economics</i>	<i>Sustainable Economy, Politics</i>	187
Laura Badea	<i>Sports</i>	188
Laura Țeposu	<i>Business, Education</i>	189
Leonard Doroftei	<i>Business, Sports</i>	190
Leonard Orban	<i>Administration, Politics</i>	191
Liviu Nisipeanu	<i>Sports</i>	192
Loránd Soares Szasz	<i>Business, Education</i>	193
Lucian Bute	<i>Business, Sports</i>	199
Margit Șerban - <i>Prof.univ.dr.</i>	<i>Education, Science</i>	200
Marian Drăgulescu	<i>Sports</i>	201
Marian Oprea	<i>Sports</i>	202
Mariana Bitang	<i>Sports</i>	203
Maricica Puică	<i>Sports</i>	204
Marius Spătaru	<i>Business, Education</i>	205
Marius Ștefan	<i>Business, Education</i>	211
Marius Urzică	<i>Sports</i>	212
Maya Simionescu - <i>PhD, Biology</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	213
Mihaela Tyrel de Poix - <i>Countess</i>	<i>Business</i>	214
Mihai Daraban - <i>President of CCIR</i>	<i>Business, Economics</i>	215
Mihai Lehene	<i>Business</i>	216
Mihai Miron	<i>Business, Science</i>	217
Mircea Bravo	<i>Media</i>	223
Mircea Geoană - <i>Dr. in Economics</i>	<i>Politics</i>	224
Mircea Lucescu	<i>Sports</i>	225
Mircea Tudor	<i>Business, Science</i>	226
Mirela Nemțanu	<i>Social Activism</i>	234
Nasty Marian Vlădoiu - <i>Prof.univ.dr.</i>	<i>Education</i>	235
Nelly Miricioiu - <i>Soprană</i>	<i>Art, Education</i>	236
Nicolae Zamfir - <i>Acad.dr.</i>	<i>Science</i>	245
Nicoleta Scarlat - <i>Baronesa Brattleby</i>	<i>Social Activism, Business</i>	246
Nicu Dendiu	<i>Business, Media</i>	255
Octavian Bellu	<i>Sports</i>	256
Ovidiu Oltean	<i>Business, Education</i>	257
Paul Arion	<i>Media</i>	258
Paul Tukaram	<i>Education</i>	266
Paula Ivan	<i>Sports</i>	267
Petre Nicolae - <i>PhD.</i>	<i>Business, Education</i>	268
Petre Roman - <i>Prof.univ.dr.</i>	<i>Education, Politics</i>	269
Radu Georgescu	<i>Business</i>	270
Radu Jude	<i>Art</i>	271
Radu Savopol	<i>Business</i>	272
Raluca Moianu	<i>Media</i>	278

Ramona Bădescu	<i>Art, Business, Media</i>	279
Rareş Bănescu	<i>Business</i>	285
Răzvan Căzănescu	<i>Business, Education</i>	286
Răzvan Vasile	<i>Business, Education</i>	289
Robert Şerban	<i>Business</i>	293
Rodica Macadrai	<i>Business, Education</i>	294
Roxana Mircea	<i>Business, Education</i>	295
Ruslan Cojocaru	<i>Business</i>	296
Sebastian Onac - <i>Prof.</i>	<i>Business, Education</i>	297
Şerban Sturdza	<i>Architect, Science</i>	298
Sergiu Neguţ	<i>Business, Education</i>	299
Sorin Pâslaru	<i>Business, Media</i>	304
Sorin Popa	<i>Business, Education</i>	305
Ştefan Bănică Jr.	<i>Art, Media</i>	306
Tatian Diaconu	<i>Business, Education</i>	307
Teodor Baconschi - <i>Dr.</i>	<i>Education, Politics</i>	308
Tiberiu Uşeriu	<i>Sports</i>	309
Valer Dorneanu - <i>Prof.dr.ing</i>	<i>Education, Politics</i>	310
Vasile Oltean - <i>Pr.prof.dr.</i>	<i>Education, Theology</i>	315
Victor Costache - <i>Prof.dr.</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	316
Victor Velculescu -- <i>Prof.dr.</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	317
Vladimir Arsene - <i>Prof.dr.</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	318
Vladimir Ciurea -- <i>Prof.dr.ing</i>	<i>Medicine, Science</i>	319
Voicu Oprean	<i>Business, Science</i>	320
Zoltan Veres	<i>Business, Education</i>	321
Acknowledgements		323
Bibliography and documentation sources		327

# *About the Author*

Ciprian Babiță is an entrepreneur, author, and cultural promoter. Born and educated in Brașov, he has built his professional path at the intersection of business and culture, always guided by the same principle: valuing work, creativity, and authentic performance.

He is the founder of the creative retreat “Stâna de Cărți”, a meeting space for writers, artists, actors, teachers, and young creatives, organized annually in an inspiring natural setting, a place where texts, performances, and new ideas are born. The retreat has become a regional cultural landmark, a space where dialogue about identity, art, and society takes shape and transforms into concrete projects.

As a playwright and prose writer, he is the author of the plays “Tom, John și nebunul”, “Ultimul primar virgin”, “Vând primar superstar”, and “Stolul de porumbei” (currently in production), works that combine humor, lucidity, and thematic courage. As a ghostwriter, he has written biographies dedicated to contemporary personalities.

He is also the author of the prose volumes “Trecerea de pietoni” and “Jocul Președinților”, which explore the relationship between power, freedom, and memory in a society in constant transformation.

Through all these editorial, theatrical, and cultural projects, Ciprian Babiță affirms his belief that performance and authentic culture can coexist with an entrepreneurial spirit and that Romania needs people who can build bridges between them.

***Ciprian Babiță,***  
*author of the work*



# *Foreword*

*by Sir George Iacobescu, CBE*

More than three decades have passed since that pivotal moment which changed Romania's destiny, December 1989. In just a few days, one world closed and another opened, one filled with hope, turmoil, challenges, and freedom. Since then, the path of the Romanian people has been complex, at times winding, but always sustained by a creative energy that has kept alive the idea of progress and dignity.

This volume – The Dictionary of Memorable Romanians after 1989 – is, above all, a work of recognition. It is not merely a collection of names, but a living map of the contemporary Romanian spirit, a testament to people who, each in their own way, have made a difference in sports, culture, science, business, education, or public life. Through their efforts, Romania has made itself heard, seen, and respected in a world that rarely offers second chances to nations in transition.

I have always looked with admiration at the way Romanians, wherever they may be, know how to transform hardship into courage, obstacles into opportunities, and doubt into determination. Those featured in this volume are not only personalities; they are symbols of a national spirit that refuses to be reduced to statistics or stereotypes. They are proof that Romanian success has many faces, some visible on Olympic podiums, others hidden in laboratories, offices, on stages, or in classrooms.

In today's globalized world, success no longer belongs only to those who distinguish themselves locally, but also to those who rise to the level of the world without forgetting their roots. In this book we encounter such people, Romanians who have carried the country's name further through their work, their ideas, and their dedication, which transcends geographical boundaries. Each of them represents a story of ambition, but also of identity.

Post-1989 Romania has been, in a profound sense, a laboratory of freedom. A freedom difficult to grasp at first, but one that gave rise to a generation of authentic, visionary, and innovative leaders. In sports, our champions have transformed themselves into legends: from Elisabeta Lipă, a symbol of perseverance and absolute performance, and Gheorghe Hagi, who redefined the idea of Romanian talent, to today's young athletes like David Popovici, who reminds us that every generation deserves its own brilliance. In culture and science, we rediscovered minds that have reconnected the broken thread of interwar excellence. In business, entrepreneurs emerged who did not settle for copying models, but created new ones, adapted to our own often harsh, yet full-of-potential reality.

Personally, I have lived more than half my life far from Romania, but never outside it. Wherever destiny has taken me, I remained connected to the language, culture, and values of this nation. When I began the development

# Constantin Necula



„A humble heart will not be despised by God.”  
(Psalm 50:18)

*Memorable for his vibrant and authentic passion for faith, culture, and education. Notable distinctions include: “the Saint John Chrysostom Order” (2017) and the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy in Sibiu (March 2024) and the “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy in Braşov (March 2025). He is the President of the Transylvanian Association for Romanian Literature and the Culture of the Romanian People (as of February 1, 2025).*

- He graduated from “Emil Racoviță” College (Braşov, 1989) and the “Andrei Şaguna” Faculty of Theology within “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu.

- Since 1995, he has been a faculty member at “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Faculty of Theology, advancing from teaching assistant (1995–1998) to associate professor (2007–2023), and serving as a PhD supervisor since 2017.

- He earned his PhD in Theology in 2004, specializing in Christian pedagogy, catechetics, and homiletics.

- He is President of the Blue Cross of Romania (since 2010), an organization dedicated to supporting individuals struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

- As a dedicated university professor, he has educated generations of students in catechetical theology and homiletics in Sibiu.

- He has completed specialized courses in Padua (Italy) and Versailles

(France), as well as studies in pastoral psychology, child abuse prevention, addictions, and Christian pedagogy.

- He is the author of over 86 solo-authored volumes and co-author of more than 50 works, including sermons, homiletics, catechetics, children’s literature, theology, and history, with a strong focus on translating patristic texts and conducting theological studies.

- He has delivered over 500 national and international lectures and is frequently present in the media, appreciated for his accessible and authentic communication style.

- He completed a master’s degree in Archaeology, Ancient Civilization, and Art at the Faculty of History of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi (2025).

- He is a member of the Union of Writers of Romania – Braşov Branch, and of the Union of Professional Journalists of Romania – Sibiu Branch.



# Daniela Rus



*Memorable for her outstanding achievements in robotics and artificial intelligence, Daniela Rus serves as the Director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) at MIT, where she has led innovative research in distributed robotics, soft robotics, and liquid neural networks. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2025 she was awarded the IEEE Edison Medal.*

- Earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Iowa in 1985.

- Obtained a Master's degree in Computer Science from Cornell University in 1990.

- Completed a Ph.D. in Computer Science at Cornell University in 1993, specializing in motion planning for dexterous manipulation.

- Her research fields include distributed and modular robotics, soft robotics, artificial intelligence, and computational design, developing self-reconfigurable robots, algorithms for networked robots, autonomous vehicles, and soft robotics systems.

- Since 2012, she has been the Director of CSAIL at MIT, the world's largest interdepartmental laboratory for computer science and AI, being the first woman to hold this position.

- She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Fellow of IEEE, ACM,

and AAAI. Her awards include the "MacArthur Fellowship" Engelberger Robotics Award" (2017), and "IEEE Edison Medal" (2025).

- Co-founded technology companies including LiquidAI and ThemisAI, serves on multiple tech boards, and has led major CSAIL projects such as the "Toyota-CSAIL Research Center" and the "AI Accelerator initiative".

- In parallel, she holds the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Professorship in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT and serves as Vice Dean for Research at the Schwarzman College of Computing.

- Currently, she continues to lead CSAIL at MIT, overseeing over 1,700 researchers in robotics and AI, shaping the future of intelligent systems globally.



# David Popovici



*Memorable as the wunderkind of Romanian swimming. He made Olympic history for Romania at Paris 2024, winning the gold medal in the 200 m freestyle, the first Romanian male swimmer to achieve an Olympic title in this event. Just a few days later, he also earned a bronze medal in the 100 m freestyle. These results at Paris marked the peak of a historic series of performances that began two years earlier, when, at only 17, he became the youngest swimmer in the world to break the 47-second barrier in the 100 m freestyle.*

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- His achievements continued at the European Senior Championships in Rome, where he repeated his World Championship success, claiming continental titles in both the 100 m and 200 m freestyle. His time in the 100 m freestyle final (46.86 s) set a new senior and junior world and European record, a competition record, and the fourth fastest time in history for the event.

- He was dethroned as the fastest swimmer in the world in the premier 100 m freestyle event at the 2024 World Championships in Doha.

- Charismatic, intelligent, and serious, with a simple yet highly impactful rhetoric, he became a symbol and idol for sports fans in Romania. "What truly motivates me, day and night, when I don't want to wake up early for training or when the water is cold in the pool, is simply my obsession. My obsession to be the best, the fastest," David said in an interview after winning his last junior title.

- He became the first swimmer in

history to consecutively win world titles in both the 100 m and 200 m freestyle, achieving this feat at the 2022 and 2025 World Championships.

- David Popovici was raised under the guidance of a single coach, Adrian Rădulescu, who has been his mentor and constant support since the age of 12. "Eight years ago, David's father came to me and said: 'Adrian, I believe David can be an Olympic champion, and I believe you can get him there,'" the coach recounted after David won his Olympic gold medal.



# Emil Hurezeanu



*Memorable for his unmistakable voice at “Radio Europa Liberă”, where he defended the truth during the communist years. A respected diplomat, former ambassador to Germany and Austria, as well as an elite writer and journalist, he has promoted Romania’s image internationally. He has been decorated with the “,” Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany “(2021), and the “Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of Austria” (2025).*



- He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca in 1979.

- He worked as a lawyer in Alba and Mediaş and as an editorialist for the student magazine Echinox, before receiving a Herder scholarship in Vienna.

- In 1983, he was granted political asylum in Germany and became editor of the Romanian section of “Radio Europa Liberă” (1983–1994).

- Between 1995 and 2002, he served as director of the Romanian section at “Deutsche Welle” in Cologne, contributing to the strengthening of free Romanian media in exile.

- Since 1998, he has been an Honorary Citizen of the city of Sibiu.

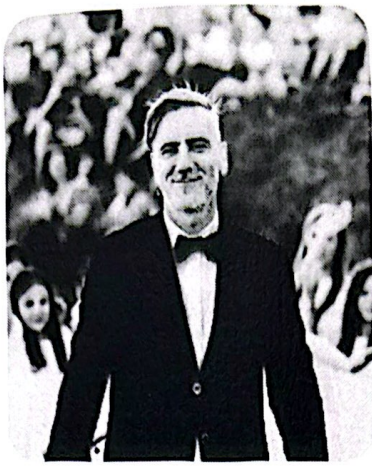
- Returning to Romania in 2002, he hosted foreign policy talk shows on Antena 1 and Realitatea TV, such as “România mea” and “Cap & Pajură”, served as advisor to Prime Minister Adrian Năstase (2003), and later as Editorial Director of the “Realitatea–

- Caţavencu” media group (2009–2010).

- He is the author of numerous volumes, the most notable being “Cetăţile fortificate din Transilvania” (2009), a UNESCO anthology and “Pe trecerea timpului: Jurnal politic românesc 1996–2015” (2015).

- In diplomacy, he served as Romania’s ambassador to Germany (2015–2021) and Austria (2021–2023), and between December 23, 2024, and June 23, 2025, he held the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Marcel Ciolacu government.

- He has received the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the universities of Sibiu, Timişoara, and Constanţa, as well as numerous distinctions for his journalistic and diplomatic activity.



# George Dumitrașcu

„Through dedication and consistent work, I have managed to keep Unison alive, contributing to the continuation of this tradition and inspiring other generations to believe in their dreams.”

*Memorable for his remarkable contribution to the field of choral music. Founder and conductor of the Unison Children’s Choir, he is a true mentor and promoter of Romanian choral art. Under his direction, the choir has won numerous international awards, becoming a symbol of excellence in artistic education. He has also been deeply involved in the development and promotion of music education, making a significant impact on the formation of young talents.*

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- Born on 14 April 1976, in Constanța, he studied piano in his childhood and later turned to vocal art, pursuing voice studies at the Conservatory of Music in Brașov. Since 1995, he has been based in Brașov, where he has become a central figure in youth music education.

- In December 2001, he founded the Unison Children’s Choir, which became a leading choral ensemble, performing in numerous concerts and 16 international tours across countries such as Austria, France, Italy, Russia, Bulgaria, Spain, Croatia, Greece, and North Macedonia, winning three Grand Prix trophies. In 2013, he established Unison Transilvania, a choir dedicated to adult female voices.

- In 2016, he founded the George Dumitrașcu Association together with Marin Constantin – vice president, and Cristina Elena Buga – secretary general, with the aim of promoting musical education and supporting young artists. The association organizes cultural events, tours, singing courses,

es, concerts, and festivals, such as the “Romania Unison Music Festival,” awarded as the “Best Project of the Year 2024.”

- He is internationally recognized, serving as an honorary member of the Artistic Council of the World Peace Choral Festival in Vienna and as a jury member in international competitions. Through his activity, he has contributed significantly to the development of choral music in Romania and to promoting young talents on national and international stages.

- He states: “Every child or adult who has been part of Unison leaves with something precious, a life lesson, a friendship, an unconditional love for music, and above all, the belief that no matter where you come from or how you start, there is always a path toward the light.”



# Sir George Iacobescu



*Memorable for transforming London's Docklands into a global financial hub, Canary Wharf. In 2011, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, becoming the first Romanian-born individual to receive this prestigious title. In 2025, he was also awarded the National Order "Star of Romania", in the rank of Grand Officer, for his constant promotion of Romania and for strengthening Romanian–British relations.*

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- He graduated from the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering at the Technical University of Civil Engineering in Bucharest.

- After graduation, he worked in Romania as a design engineer, focusing on the design of pumping stations for a state enterprise.

- In 1975, he emigrated to Canada, where he worked for two years as an engineer at Homeco Investments in Montreal, specializing in the restoration of two major buildings.

- In 1978, he was hired as an assistant to the vice president of Olympia and York, then the largest real estate development company in North America. Over the next five years, he managed the construction of the first modern granite factory in North America, in Toronto, and contributed to projects such as Olympia Center and the Neiman Marcus Building — a 64-story skyscraper in Chicago, as well as other large-scale developments in Dallas, Boston, and Houston.

- In 1994, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of Canary Wharf Holdings Limited as Executive Director, later becoming Executive Vice Chairman in 1996 and Executive Chairman in March 1997, leading a company with assets exceeding £5 billion.

- Canary Wharf comprises 34 buildings: 24 office towers, five shopping centers, a department store, two conference centers, theaters, cinemas, and fitness and leisure clubs.

- The complex includes three of the tallest skyscrapers in England, among them One Canada Square (244 meters high).

- He is a member of the governing boards of the Royal College of Music, the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra, the British Museum, the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, and the Royal British Society of Sculptors.



# Laura Teosu



„The human mind, once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

*Memorable for transforming Libris, launched in 2009, into one of Romania's largest online bookstores, offering over 800,000 titles with a steady annual growth of 20%. She renovated the physical bookstore Șt. O. Iosif in Brașov, turning it into a cultural hub, and introduced AI-powered personalized recommendation tools on libris.ro. Through initiatives such as LibFest and CarteTeca, she supports education and reading, fostering vibrant and inspirational communities*

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- Graduated from the Faculty of Economic Sciences, specializing in Finance and Banking, at Transilvania University of Brașov (2000), and holds a master's degree in Accounting Policies and Management Control.

- Completed leadership and entrepreneurship programs at Harvard Business School, YPO Presidents' Program (2025) and London Business School, Leader and Entrepreneur Programme (2022–2025).

- Libris sells titles in Romanian and English; the platform includes the Browse feature, available for over 43,000 titles.

- Led the rebranding of the Libris Șt. O. Iosif bookstore in Brașov in 2024, consolidating it as a cultural and community space.

- Through CarteTeca, in partnership with Save the Children Romania, over 35,400 books were distributed to 287 school libraries by 2024 (total funding: 1.1 million RON), reaching more than 100,000 students

with new and engaging books.

- Through the campaign “A Gesture for a Life”, the company raised over €700,000, equipping 19 medical units in Romania with state-of-the-art equipment.

- Launched and coordinated LibFest, a book fair and cultural experience event in Brașov and online, featuring book launches, author dialogues, children's workshops, #LibrisTalks conferences, and concerts.

- Believes that access to reading is one of the most reliable investments in an educated and balanced society, and that cultural entrepreneurship must combine innovation with social impact.



# Mircea Lucescu



*Memorable for his exceptional football career (from 1979 to the present), for serving as captain of Romania at the 1970 FIFA World Cup, and for winning trophies in Romania (Dinamo București – 1986, 1989–1990), Turkey (Galatasaray – 2001–2002; Beşiktaş – 2002–2003), and Ukraine (Shakhtar Donetsk, 2004–2016 – 8 league titles, 6 Cups, 7 Super Cups, and the 2008–2009 UEFA Cup). His innovative style, tactical discipline, and ability to build competitive teams have established him as a football legend.*

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- As a player, he primarily played for Dinamo București between 1964 and 1977. As a coach, he has led the Romanian National Team and major clubs including Corvinul Hunedoara, Dinamo București, Brescia, Reggiana, Rapid București, Internazionale Milano, Galatasaray, Beşiktaş Istanbul, Shakhtar Donetsk, Zenit Saint Petersburg, and Dinamo Kiev. Between 2017 and 2019, he served as head coach of the Turkish National Team.

- In March 2008, he was awarded the Merit in Sport Order, Class III, "in recognition of participation in the Final Tournament of the 1970 FIFA World Cup (Mexico) and for his entire career."

- He became the oldest player to compete in Romania's top division (Divizia A), achieving this at age 45 for Dinamo București in a match against Sportul Studentesc (16 May 1990), entering in the 76th minute to avoid a three-month suspension imposed by the federation for using players called up to the national team.

- In 2015, he became the fifth coach in history to lead 100 matches in the UEFA Champions League, joining Alex Ferguson, Carlo Ancelotti, Arsène Wenger, and José Mourinho.

- On 6 August 2024, he was appointed head coach of the Romanian National Team, returning for a second tenure after previously coaching from 1981 to 1986.

- In 2025, at age 80, he was recognized as one of the oldest active coaches at the international level.

- Currently, he serves as the head coach of the Romanian National Football Team.



# Nelly Miricioiu



*„Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”*

*Memorable for her international career as an opera soprano, being one of Romania's most celebrated lyrical voices. She has performed on the world's major stages, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Geneva, Madrid, Rome, Salzburg, Barcelona, and others, collaborating with renowned conductors and tenors such as Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Roberto Alagna, Alfredo Kraus, and Renato Bruson. She has won awards at international singing competitions in Geneva (Switzerland), Paris (France), Sofia (Bulgaria), and Oostende (Belgium).*

- Born in Adjud, she began singing at the age of 5 and was considered a child prodigy. At 9, she started studying piano, and at 14, she won her first singing competition, „Tinere Talente”, „Mari Speranțe”. („Young Talents”, „Great Hopes”).

- She attended the Conservatory in Iași, where, with the guidance of distinguished professors, she perfected her discipline, deepened her understanding of music, learned to perform as the composer intended, and grasped the phonetic nuances of foreign languages. She then conquered major international stages: Scottish Opera in Glasgow (1981), Royal Opera House – Covent Garden (as Nedda in Pagliacci, 1982), La Scala in Milan (Lucia di Lammermoor, 1983), the Metropolitan Opera in New York (Mimi, 1989), as well as stages in Amsterdam, Vienna, San Francisco, and others.

- Her repertoire spans from Mozart and bel canto to Verdi, Puccini, and verismo, including modern Italian composers (Respighi, Zandonai),

as well as French and Russian composers.

- Decorated with the Royal House of Romania Cross and the royal decoration Nihil Sine Deo (2012), awarded by the Royal Family of Romania in recognition of her international cultural contribution and loyalty to the Crown and Romanian values.

- Received the Excellence Award at the National Opera Gala (2016), named “Exceptional Soloist,” presented by His Royal Highness Prince Radu.

- Collaborated with some of the most prestigious conductors and directors, performing leading roles such as Tosca, Mimi (La Bohème), and Violetta (La Traviata), alongside numerous internationally renowned artists.

- On the occasion of her 70th birthday (2022), the National Opera of Bucharest hosted an extraordinary anniversary concert in her honor, held under the patronage of the Royal Family of Romania.