MIHAI URZICANA

Mihai Urzicana has a tenor's voice and attitude. As a child, he used to sing in the church choir, and the priest who encouraged him to do so is now his Godfather. His family would also sing a lot, but no one had thought of becoming a professional singer. Neither had Mihai, in fact. At least not until he was almost pushed to take an M.A. degree at the Bucharest Music University, where he studied with Mrs Bianca Manoleanu. This is where it all started to take shape, and Mihai started to enjoy singing on stage, in operas. This is a special state—one where you try to sing as well as possible, to give all you have, and to start all over again at the next concert. When singing in church, one is humble. With opera, on the other hand, one goes in character, feels what the character feels, gets used to a state of grandeur. One sings with one's entire body. What Mihai aims for, now, is to be a professional tenor. He likes Puccini's La Boheme and he is studying for Rodolfo's part. He has taken part in (and won) competitions like Mihail Jora (2017), Opera Start (2017), L'assoluta Virginia Zeani Gran Prix of Romania (2018). He collaborates with such philharmonic orchestras as "Oltenia" in Craiova, "Mihail Jora" in Bacău, "Paul Constantinescu" in Ploiesti, "Serghei Lunchevici" in Chisinău, the Sibiu State Philharmonic, the Tg. Mureş State Philharmonic. When he has time, he listens to any kind of music, without judging before listening. He cannot rate a singer above another, because each appearance on stage requires tremendous work, and this is what matters. He appreciates opera audiences, who cultivate and love their heroes, rather than abandon them.

PS: This is what he says about Raluca Ouatu, the pianist who accompanied him in this project: "I met her in Mrs Manoleanu's class, in the first week of the year. They both encouraged me, and Raluca stood by my side since day one. We always play together. Raluca, along with Mrs Bianca Manoleanu, was the one who encouraged me not to give up my studies in the first week."