

GEORGE ENESCU (1881-1955)



George Enescu was a Romanian composer, violinist, pianist, conductor and teacher. Born in a village from Romania, Enescu began experimenting with composing at an early age, showing a musical talent early in his childhood. His first musical pieces were short violin and piano songs. A significant work of this period-when he was only 5 years old- is *Romanian Land*-opus for piano and violin. At the age of seven, he became the youngest student ever admitted to the Vienna Conservatory. At the age of ten, he gave a private concert at The Court of Vienna, in the presence of Emperor Franz Joseph. Before his 13th birthday, Enescu graduated, earning the silver medal. He continued his studies at The Conservatoire de Paris.

His first mature work, at the age of 16th, was *Poema Română-Romanian Poem*. His most popular compositions were influenced by the Romanian culture and folk music: *Romanian Rhapsodies*, *Oedipe*, five symphonies, chamber music and suites for orchestra. Pablo Casals described Enescu as "the greatest musical phenomenon since Mozart" and "one of the greatest geniuses of modern music". In her memories, Queen Marie of Romania wrote that "in George Enescu was real gold".

