

TÓTH GUTTMAN EMESE - LAUDATIO

Dear Emese! We remember people in different ways. We only see you with a smile and serenity on your face, always on the move for music and its causes, or doing someone's errands. When we ask you how you are, your answer is 'quite fine', and we immediately know what kind of music you are working on or what kind of courses or classes you are trying to start. Mihály Babits's poem *A második ének* (The Second Song) fits you perfectly: "I'll tell you the secret of the song, my dear: He who listens to a song listens to himself. Every man has a song in his soul, and he hears his own soul in every song. And he who has a beautiful song in his soul hears the song of others as beautiful."



You were present at the start of our faculty's music education programme in the first great teaching staff, and as a faculty member of the BBU Faculty of Reformed Teacher Education and Music from 2003, you have maintained the drive and loyalty we experienced about you in your first year. You encouraged your students to love music, to experience the delight and mystical world of music, and inspired by these encouragements your students have successfully performed in concerts, festivals, and competitions, both within and beyond the borders.

Over the past two decades, you have contributed greatly to the work of the music department, contributing with your knowledge and ideas to its development.

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Who is Emese Tóth Guttman?

She was born in 1953. Coming from a family of musicians, she received a strong musical education from an early age.

She graduated from the Music High School in Cluj-Napoca in 1972, majoring in piano in the class of Walter Metzger. She continued her studies at Gheorghe Dima Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca and graduated as a music teacher in 1976. Her piano teacher was Ilona Jánky and her organ teacher was Kálmán Benedek.

She perfected her training in international masterclasses and seminars (Weimar – 1980, 1981; Kecskemét – 1976, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1992). In 1983, she took part in the “Liszt Ferenc” International Organ Competition in Budapest. Between 1991 and 1996, she studied Gregorian music in several places (Pannonhalma, Kecskemét, Vienna, Udvarhely, Vác). She has participated in international organology conferences (Timișoara – 2008, Budapest – 2009).

She started her teaching career at the Music School of Cluj-Napoca in 1976 as a piano teacher. She obtained her second teaching degree in 1984 and her first teaching degree in 1992. In addition to teaching piano, she tutored, conducted orchestras and taught chamber music. Her students have performed successfully in concerts, festivals, and competitions, both at home and abroad.

She has also made good use of her vocal skills in several choirs (Eutherpe Women’s Choir, Piarist Choir, Mixed Choir of Săvădisla) and played the viola in the Trade Union Orchestra of Cluj-Napoca. She is currently member of the Mihály Guttman Pedagogical Choir of Cluj-Napoca. Since 2000, she has been a conductor and has directed the Mixed Choir of Vlaha. With the above-mentioned ensembles, she has performed in numerous concerts in cities of Transylvania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Her professional recognition includes the János Jagamas Award, the EMKE Award, as well as the love of her pupils and the gratitude of the students she has supported.

Since 2002, she has been the President of the Association of Hungarian Singers in Romania. With great competence and devotion, she plans, organizes, and leads the activities for the revitalization of choral culture and music in Transylvania. Since 2010, she has been the President of the InstruMentor Association.

Her conscientious work, love of family and humanity, living the values of the Christian faith, serene personality, professional knowledge, and deep humility will serve as a worthy example for the generations of teachers to follow.

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Dear Emese, may God preserve you, may your smile be ever bright, and may your students and colleagues always be able to reflect the love that comes from you.

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