



Valentin Radu, Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Ama Deus Ensemble and Vox Renaissance Consort, has led numerous orchestras and vocal ensembles in Europe and the U.S., including the Hungarian National Philharmonic, Bucharest, Arad, Oradea Philharmonics, the Budapest Chamber Orchestra and the Romania National Radio Orchestra. In 1996 he conducted the Bucharest Philharmonic in Handel's Messiah and in 1997 led the Romanian National Radio Orchestra in Handel's Acis and Galatea. He has conducted Vox Ama Deus in various programs ranging from motets and madrigals to authentically staged Renaissance operas performed on original instruments. Since 1997, he conducts Ama Deus Ensemble and Maestro Dan Grigore in their annual Viennese Gala concerts in Philadelphia.

Valentin Radu and the Ama Deus Ensemble have created an impressive recording library on some of the top labels, featuring such masterpieces as Handel's Messiah, Bach's B Minor Mass and Magnificat, Handel's Acis and Galatea, Vivaldi's Gloria and Magnificat, Handel's Fireworks (Water Music, Royal Fireworks, Organ Concert No. 4, Op. 4). Their discography also includes: A Baroque Christmas, A European Christmas, A Renaissance Noel on the PolyGram label, and Glad Tidings, released on both the Warner label and Sony Classics.

In addition to being a classical music scholar and artist, Valentin Radu is equally accomplished in jazz performance as a conductor and a solo performer. In December 1998, he conducted the 97-member Bucharest Philharmonic in a Gershwin Centennial Gala concert, featuring the Rhapsody in Blue (Dan Grigore, soloist), An American in Paris, and Porgy and Bess. Since May 2000, Maestro Radu has conducted extraordinary jazz concerts in Bucharest, with his "Sound" jazz group, featuring singer Teodora Enache and Romanian jazz legend Johny Raducanu. In May 1999, Radu participated in the historic visit to Romania of Pope John Paul II. In September 2004, he was invited to be the sole performer at a special U.N. gala in New York honoring the President of Romania. In December 1997, Radu was awarded the Golden Apple by New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. In February 1999, the Romanian Music Critics' Association named him "1998 Musician of the Year". In April of 2003, Radu was bestowed the title of Honorary Citizen of the City of Bucharest by the mayor of his native town. In 2005, Valentin Radu was awarded by the President of Romania The Grand Officer of the Order of Cultural Merit, in recognition of his life achievement in the arts and his efforts as "Cultural Ambassador" of Romania. Radu became the seventh and youngest recipient of this most prestigious award in the history of Romania.