



A native of Romania, born in Brasov, Maria Rusu comes from a family of musicians. She began her musical studies at the age of six studying violin with her mother, Teodora Rusu and later on she switched to viola. Maria attended a music school for twelve years in Brasov before coming to the U.S. to continue her musical studies. She currently serves as Core Faculty at The Music School of Delaware (Wilmington, DE) working in the registrar's office, teaching violin, viola, jazz voice, as well as string coaching and being the assistant conductor of the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra. Maria is also a member of the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and Newark Symphony Orchestra, playing in both the violin and viola sections. Ms. Rusu has had the pleasure of performing with the stellar jazz faculty at The Music School of Delaware on several occasions since 2018, some being Chris Braddock, Paul Boris, Marty Lassman and most recent the school's Jazz Combo.

During her studies at BGSU, Ms. Rusu was part of the Vocal Jazz Ensemble for three years, studying with Chris Buzzelli (guitarist) and Kim Nazarian (vocalist – New York Voices), and she also participated in the annual New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp every summer from 2013-2017. Maria has worked closely with the New York Voices and Greg Jasperse for the past two summers, being heavily involved in their annual Vocal Jazz Camp which was held virtually.

At the University of Delaware, Maria was part of the Jazz Ensemble I, Jazz Combo and their Jazz Singers vocal group. In 2017 Ms. Rusu was invited to record the tune “It Don’t Mean a Thing if It Ain’t Got Swing” with the UD Jazz Ensemble I, along with soloists Nick Pietuszka and Todd Groves. This tune can be purchased on all music platforms, including Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/ywypjznt>

Ms. Rusu had the opportunity to record and sing in venues in Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With a jazz quartet made of musicians from the National Music Festival, in 2015 Maria was invited to the radio station in Chestertown MD for an interview where she sang some jazz standards and premiered her jazz tune called "What if..." (written in 2014). She returned for another interview on June 16th, 2017 where she performed a few more jazz tunes with Brazilian guitarist Camilo Carrara.

Her most recent performance was in October of 2021 where she was invited to perform with the Hoppin’ John Jazz Orchestra (www.hoppinjohnorchestra.com) as a guest vocalist.

For more information about Maria and her performances, visit www.mariarusu.com