

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.

In January of 2017 she took over the leadership of Philadelphia Viola Society, creating a completely new website, organizing events, in person and online and connecting many violists in the community with several local artists and international guest artists as

well.

Miss Rusu graduated from University of Delaware in Newark DE in 2017 with a Master of Music in Viola Performance studying with Sheila Browne and Dr. Esme Allen-Creighton. She also received a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance from Bowling Green State University, College of Musical Arts in Bowling Green, Ohio in 2015 where she studied with Professor Matthew Daline -McBride.

As a jazz singer, Miss 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. For more information about Maria and her performances, visit www.mariarusu.com