



Commission
Vanishing Languages
and Cultural Heritage



Austrian
Academy of
Sciences

Commission
Vanishing Languages
and Cultural Heritage

Book Presentation

At Eve's Inn: Secular and Pre-Christian Carols from Transylvania

La făgădău Evii. Colinde de sorginte laică și precreștină
din Mărișel și Măguri

Thede Kahl & Răzvan Roșu

ORGANIZER

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REGISTRATION

Registration is required until 13.12.2025: regina.barth@oeaw.ac.at

Cover image: Christmas carolers from Mărișel © Centrul de Cultură și Artă Tradiții Clujene

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**MO,
15.12.2025
4.00 p.m.**

Austrian Academy of Sciences,
Theatersaal
Sonnenfelsgasse 19
1010 Vienna

La făgădău Evii. Colinde de sorginte laică și precreștină din Mărișel și Măguri

This book explores the remarkable repertoire of secular and pre-Christian carols preserved in the villages of Mărișel and Măguri. In these two communities of Țara Moșilor, a tradition survived until the 1990s that had once been widespread across Romanian settlements in Transylvania. These early carols do not recount the Nativity; instead, they draw on secular and archaic motifs, offering a rare glimpse into an older cultural and ritual landscape.

Over time, this repertoire was gradually replaced by the “star songs,” influenced by Central and Western Europe and centered on the birth of Christ. The book traces this transition and illuminates what it reveals about identity, memory, and musical culture in the region.

The authors

Thede Kahl is Professor of South Slavic Studies at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and serves as Chairman of the Commission Vanishing Languages and Cultural Heritage at the Austrian Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on linguistic minorities, cultural resilience, and the historical dynamics of communities in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe.

Răzvan Roșu studied cultural anthropology in Cluj, Vienna, and Jena. His doctoral research examines archaism as an anthropological feature of the Carpathian mountain regions, with a focus on Țara Moșilor. He has carried out extensive fieldwork documenting traditional music in Transylvania and across Central and Southeastern Europe, publishing several studies and books on cultural exchange in rural communities.

Programme

Short Film

presenting the field research carried out by Thede Kahl and Răzvan Roșu in the villages of Mărișel and Măguri

Introduction to the men’s caroling tradition (UNESCO Intangible Heritage)

Adriana Irimieș, PhD candidate, Manager of the Center for Culture and Arts “Tradiții Clujene”

Book Presentation: La făgădău Evii. Colinde de sorginte laică și precreștină din Mărișel și Măguri

Thede Kahl, Head of the Commission Vanishing Languages and Cultural Heritage

Răzvan Roșu, Babeș-Bolyai University Cluj

Christmas Carols

Group “Mărișana” and the Taragot Players

Colindatul Junilor de la Mărișel – Conacul

Răzvan Roșu together with the groups “Mărișana” and “Horitorii Clujului”

Selection of archaic corinzi / carols

Discussion and Traditional Carols