

GRAND FINALE
CONCERT

XIII LATVIJAS SKOLU
JAUNATNES
DZIESMU
UN DEJU SVĒTKI

DAWNS – HERE



12th July 17.00
MEŽAPARKS GREAT STAGE

WEAVING TIME

In the first part of this five piece concert we are invited to “weave up” time, to integrate the past and the present. Sējāns lays out the landscape with sound and Liepiņš builds a pathway.

INTERWOVEN TIME

Sound landscape, 2025

Music: Reinis Sējāns
Text: Latvian folksong and
Matīss Gricmanis

THE PATHWAYS OF OUR FATHERS

Grand entrance, 2025

Music: Zigmārs Liepiņš
Arrangement: Kārlis Vanags

CASTLE OF LIGHT

1899

Music: Jāzeps Vītols
Text: Auseklis
High school mixed choirs, choir conductors
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags

This legend is about a castle sunk in a lake, which will rise only when someone guesses its name, has become the spirit of the song festival movement and part of the Latvian canon. Symbolizing the values, knowledge, and freedom of the Latvian people, in keeping with a wider theme of National Romanticism of the time, it encouraged Latvian national self-confidence to express itself more freely, show respect for the native language, and strengthen its culture in order to believe in the promise of the coming of light and resurrection, and eventually, independence. The drama of the poem is seamlessly captured by the music.

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS MY FATHERLAND

2018

Folk Music

Arrangement: Edgars Kārklis

Soloists: Ance Krauze and Elza,

Kate and Bille Siliņa

My fatherland is beautiful, encircled by oak trees, where the sun plays in the centre. My brother's home has trice-nine gates. The sun rises in one, the moon in the other; I ride home through the third with my two dun horses.

GOD BLESS LATVIA!

1872

Music and text: Baumaņu Kārlis
Massed choirs

The brass band of the Jāzeps
Mediņš' Riga Music High School
Honorary Chief Conductor
Jēkabs Ozoliņš

As the national anthem, this song embodies the noblest values of the Latvian nation. First performed at the inaugural Latvian Song Festival in 1873, it is sung in the present yet rooted in the past and looks to the future.

TO LATVIA

2022

Music and Text: Valts Pūce

High school mixed choirs,
choir conductors

Chief Conductor Mārtiņš Klišāns

A song with the personality of a national anthem, this is Valts Pūce's dedication to the centenary of the Latvian constitution. Far from just a formal document of state, it is a solemn promise to protect our fatherland even if our days turn dark.

A HUNDRED SONGS WILL CIRCLE US

Krišjānis Barons collected enough folk songs to match Latvia's population—each one a reflection of the Latvian worldview and a core part of our cultural DNA. Then came Rainis, who enriched and evolved this heritage, inspiring generations of writers. Why settle for one song when you can have a hundred? A person has one life; a song has three: the past, the present, and the one that lives forever.

BRANCHES UPON BRANCHES

2018

Music: Mārtiņš Brauns and folk music

Arrangement: Kaspars Bārbals

Choreography: Jānis Purviņš

Years 10 –12 dance groups

Chief Director Jānis Purviņš

Originally choreographed for seniors' ensembles, this dance follows in the footsteps of the tiny child (pādīte) as it runs over the leaves and branches.

SUN

2010

Music: Selga Mence

Text: Kārlis Skalbe

Years 4 – 9 and 5 –12 choirs

Chief Conductor Aira Birziņa

The bright and warm mood highlights the aspirations of the Latvian people and their land, for freedom, vitality, resilience and goodness. The sun is one of the main deities in Latvian mythology. In addition to being the bringer of warmth and light, she personifies mothering and wisdom.

THE BEAUTIFUL SONGS CYCLE

2020

Music: Laura Jēkabsons

Text: Latvian folksong

Boys' choirs and years 4 – 9
and 5 – 12 choirs

Chief Conductor

Kaspars Ādamsons

Cheerfully positive

Part 1. *I Sang a Beautiful Song*

Part 2. *Let's Just Sing Instead*

This song cycle celebrates the idea that songs and singing are central to Latvia's cultural heritage. The composer believes that the use of "body percussion" frees up the body for singing, making it more engaging and interesting as well as joyful and positive. Part 2 goes one step further and tells us that singing is a valuable occupation and should replace talking of little value or consequence.

A FATHER HAD NINE SONS

1993

Music: Ilze Arne
Text: Latvian folksong
Years 4 – 9 and 5 – 12 choirs
Chief Conductor Aira Birziņa

The energetic nature and dynamic contrasts underscore the symbols contained in this folksong about family, strength and integrity, as well the division of labour and harmony with the natural world.

I WENT A-DANCING WITH MY BROTHER

1872

Music: Andris Kontauts
Text: Latvian folksong
High school mixed choirs
Chief Conductor Jevgenijs Ustinskovs

Here is a young man's affection for a girl with whom he wants to build a friendship. He uses a bit of good-natured trickery to get closer.

A CYCLE OF LATVIAN FOLKSONGS

AS SONGS RANG OUT IN THE EARLY MORN SO THEY RANG IN THE LATE EVE

2025

AS THE SUN RISES, THE LIGHT SPREADS (South Kurzeme)
Soloists: Marta Masjuka, Santa Matisiņa and Anete Lote Janušjaviča

THE SUN RISES IN THE EARLY MORN (Latgale)
Soloists: Kristaps Gatis Caunītis and Ritvars Ozols

SPRING SONGS FROM VIDZEME
Soloists: Elza Gudermane and Emīlija Kūlaine

SONGS FOR THE OUTDOORS FROM ZEMGALE
Soloists: Patrīcija Albuže and Marta Zakarīte

THE NIGHTINGALE SINGS BEAUTIFULLY (Kurzeme)
THE LITTLE GIRL GROWS UP (Sēlija)
Folk groups and folk Musicians
Massed choirs
Artistic Director Māra Mellēna
Musical Director Dina Liepa
Chief Conductor Gints Ceplenieks

This is a series of authentic Latvian folk songs from all parts of Latvia. They celebrate the splendour of the surroundings, nature, and the joy of singing itself. They lyrically describe the experience of morning, blossoming spring, the relationships of young people, and the power of singing.

EXCERPTS FROM THE GRAND DANCE PERFORMANCE I OPENED LAIMA'S GARDEN

MAKTENĪGI RĀCENTIŅI, 2004
Choreography: Arta Melnalksne
Folk Music arrangement: Sniedze Grīnberga

The boys try to attract the attention of the girls by pretending to be turnips. The girls pretend that don't notice and harvest the crop. All ends well and they all dance.

MY LOVE
Choreography: Iluta Mistre and Dace Ostaņēviča
Folk Music arrangement: Lolita Greitāne

Latgalian folk song motifs about young love and courting.

ALL THE VILLAGE DOGS WERE BARKING, 2002
Choreography: Rita Spalva
Folk Music, lļģi folk group arrangement
Selection of choreography: Dagmāra Bārbale
Dagmāra Bārbale
Selection of music: Kaspars Bārbals
Years 3-4, 5-6, 7-9 dance groups
Soloists: Lauma Eglīte, Laura Elizabete Godiņa, Alise Meļko
Chief Director Dagmāra Bārbale

The dogs bark, the horse is rattled, the bride is scared but the groom is strong and brave. The horse is scolded, trust is restored and the journey continues.

A MEDLEY OF ETHNOGRAPHIC DANCES

2020

"Salnavas dzīsmē"
Choreography: Guna Trukšāne
"not only can I sing, but I can dance as well . . ."
"Pinu vīzes"
Choreography: Rūta Cīrule
"I am braiding my bast shoes"
"Brička"Choreography: Jānis Kalniņš
A dance for pairs in formation

Folk Music arrangement: Katrīna Dimanta
Years 3-4, 5-6. 7-9 dance groups
Solists: Katrīna Dimanta (vocals, violin), Rolands Zelčs (accordion), Kristaps Gatis Caunītis (clarinet)
Chief Director Guna Trukšāne

PATTERNS OF KNOTS ALL AROUND

Patterns are everywhere; you just need to be able to read them! We spend a lifetime learning to read nature's secrets. Songs hold the special patterns of our lifetimes and composers help us read them; from nature, to riddles and even the flag. These are the 21st century musicians who, upon investigation, reveal that what we thought was unique, has become that which unifies.

HOW YOU LOVE ME

2018

Music: Raimonda Tigulis
Text: Nora Ikstena
Massed choirs
Soloists: Artūrs Skrastiņš,
Ilze Ķuzule-Skrastiņa, Ozols
Chief Conductor Māris Sirmāis

An ode to the richness of the Latvian language. Folklore has preserved a tradition of metaphors and riddles, which handed down through generations, reveal cleverness, world wisdom and kindness that well surpasses mere communication and playfulness.

SUN, THUNDER, DAUGAVA

1988

Music: Mārtiņš Brauns
Text: Rainis
Massed Choirs
Chief Conductor Gints Ceplenieks

Written by one of Latvia's greatest literary icons as part of a play, its message is national awakening. This song is now an indelible part of every Latvian song festival. Its epic message, carried by a simple melody together with its dramatic framing, never ceases to build to a powerful emotional climax for singers and audience alike.

AN ODE TO THE POETS

1920

Music: Raimonds Pauls
Transcription: Edgars Linde
Text: Jānis Peters
Massed Choirs
Soloist: Jānis Buķelis
Chief Conductor: Līga Celma-Kursiete

Freedom and independence for nations depend as much on the consciousness of the people as much as politics. Latvian poets (like the 20 mentioned here), have played a fundamental role in inspiring and nurturing resilience and endurance, bringing light, giving direction and guiding. Originally created as a rock song during the COVID pandemic, here it is transformed for massed choirs.

MY FATHERLAND

2013

Music: Raimonds Pauls
Text: Knuts Skujenieks
Choreography: Jānis Purviņš
Massed Choirs
Years 1 -2 and 10 -12 dance groups
Chief Conductor Edgars Vītols
Chief Director Jānis Purviņš

Fatherland, you may be small, lovable or deep but above all, you are mine, all mine. Serious words of patriotism, belonging, pride and resilience are delivered by music that swirls and flows freely and gracefully, revealing its danceability and inherent vitality.

RIVER

2017

Music and Text: Jānis Stībelis
Arrangement: Edgars Linde
Massed Choirs
Soloist: Jānis Stībelis
Chief Conductor Kaspars Ādamsons

A nation is like a river – sometimes calm and quiet, at other times swift and powerful. The refrain of this song is about love for the nation, honouring its destiny and connection with its people.

THE WORLD IS BIG

"Dullais Dauka" film, 2014

Music and Text: Rolands Ūdris
Transcription: Edgars Linde
Boys' choirs and years 4 -9 and 5-12 choirs
Soloists: Melānija Izašare,
Marija Līna Viļumova,
Gustavs Švēdenbergs, Ernests Upatnieks
Chief Conductor Rudīte Tālberga

The song is about insatiable curiosity and a desire for adventure. When Dullais Dauka, the main character of the story written by Sudraba Edžus, a boy who wants to explore the big, wide world sets off, he heads for the place where the sea meets the sky.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

2023

Music: Uldis Marhilevičs
Text: Guntars Račs
Massed Choirs
Soloist: Eduards Rediko
The percussion group of the Riga Nr. 1 primary school Development Centre
Chief Conductor Jurgis Cābulis

To follow your dreams is good, but to not give up in the face of challenges is also important. The use of unison, symbolizing consensus and the power of unity, gives this song a special, unexpected quality. Written in 2023, it was first performed at the start of *The Light Returns* concert tour by Račs and Marhilevičs, two Latvian popular music icons.

ABOUT KNOTS

2005

Music: Renārs Kaupers
Arrangement: Valts Pūce
Text: Inga Cipe and Renārs Kaupers
Massed Choirs
Soloists: Imants Seleckis, Renārs Kaupers
Chief Conductor Edgars Vītols

This is about belonging; starting with the family and growing to include Latvia. They are the ties that bind. Mirroring the theme, the work was created through a great collaboration of committed artists working together.

YOUR FLAG

2019

Music: Jānis Aīšpurs
Text: Renārs Kaupers
Years 4–9 and 5–12 choirs and high school mixed choirs
Soloist: Jānis Aīšpurs
The Sound Poets group
Chief Conductor Edgars Vītols

This uplifting and inspiring song is the result of a sincere, friendly collaboration between Latvia's favourite musicians Aīšpurs and Kaupers. Using symbols like a cliff face, a stone, fire and a flag – Latvia and its people are depicted as persistent and strong in the face of adversity. Light, in turn, symbolizes the hope that even in dark moments the Latvian spirit will endure.

AIR EMERGES FROM THE HEART OF LIGHT

The entrance of the brass bands marks the bridge that crosses from weaving the world of light, to its opposite nature (Rebels' Potpourri) – unravelling, untying, transforming – a great way of getting rid of superfluous waste – to find "the golden thread". that we see in part three.

WHERE YOU GOIN'. . .

2022

Latvian folk song
Arrangement: Aivars and Andrejs Cepītis
Massed brass bands
The percussion group of the Riga Nr. 1 primary school
Chief Conductor Egons Salmanis

"Where are you going oh rooster of mine . . . " is probably the first and best known song for every Latvian child the world over. "To wake everyone up of course!"

ALWAYS TOGETHER

2023

Music: Aivars Krūmiņš
Massed brass bands
Chief Conductor Haralds Bārzdīņš

Together means a melange of music styles from fanfares and cutting edge contemporary, to Latino rhythms, in this celebratory work. This is not an easy piece of music and yet young children stand together with teens to deliver a music experience that can only work – together!

REBELS' POTPURRI

THE GREEN SONG, 1988

Music: Juris Kulakovs
Text: Māris Melgalvis

THE VOICE OF THE CUCKOO, 1979

Music: Imants Kalniņš
Text: Māris Čaklais

TRUTH, 1989

Music: Jānis Lūsēns
Text: Edvards Treimanis-Zvārgulis

COME DANCE, 1992

Music: Gvido Linga
Text: Igors Linga

ALMOST A FOLKSONG, 1987

Music: Juris Kulakovs
Text: Māris Melgalvis

Espacially curated for the School Youth Song and Dance Festival, these songs from the era of "the third awakening" and the "Singing Revolution" are an eloquent reminder that being rebellious is not at odds with being powerfully united.

Transposition: Edgars Linde
Arrangement: Andis Klučnieks
Massed choirs and brass bands
Chief Conductor Gvido Brenčevs

THE GOLDEN THREAD

Rūdolf Blaumanis has given every schoolchild the ballad of Tālava's Horn Blower and the immortal line of "my people are my gold!" If we were to ask a contemporary hero-gatekeeper for a noble ideal to rise up to, today's gold, what would it be? According to Strazds, Ķīrsis and Kaupers, it could sound something like this: "My gold is the simple things, my generation's places, my own journey with well-worn pathways – as long as we're mindful of not driving our mothers crazy."

THE GREEN LAND 2014

Music: Jānis Strazds
Text: Jānis Peters
Massed choirs
Soloists: Ance Krauze, Andris Ērglis
Chief Conductor Mārtiņš Klišāns

From poet Jānis Peters' song cycle *Linen*, this song, often performed on state occasions, celebrates love of Latvia through patriotism and pride in the fatherland through the deep connection between people and nature as well as Latvian traditions and values.

SIMPLE THINGS 2016

Music: Jānis Ķīrsis
Text: Guntars Račs
Massed choirs
Soloists: Aleksandra Špicberga, Mārtiņš Eliass
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags

Starting off as a popular girl group song, for Latvia's centenary, it expanded into a choral piece, which included boys' choirs. It highlights simple and beautiful elements as the foundation for life and belonging to a nation; like nature, home and songs, without which, one can feel sad and lost.

MY SONG 2005

Music: Renārs Kaupers
Arrangement: Valts Pūce
Text: Inga Cipe and Renārs Kaupers
Massed choirs
Soloists: Georgs Rukmanis-Počs, Renārs Kaupers
Childrens' and young peoples' sign language choirs
Chief Conductor Eduards Grāvītis

When the computer is off and the phone is silent, let me come to you tonight. I want to learn the first steps and start the first song.
These are the words of my people; this song is also from there. And I know that there is no one else who can sing it in my place.

THE ORNAMENT IN THE WEAVE

The finale is something that can only be seen when everything is completed. The poetry of Vācietis and Ziedonis represent the stream that will take us into the future. The rivers blanketed by ice shards await their turn to flood and the most sacred jewel we carry hidden in our hearts is Latvia. It's a jewel not everyone can recognize without due diligence.

MY HAIR IS FULL OF ICE SHARDS

2013

Music: Māra Upmane-Holšteine
Text: Imants Ziedonis
Soloists: Māra Upmane-Holšteine and *Solistu koris*
Childrens' and young people's sign language choirs

Ziedonis is one of Latvia's most beloved poets known for the evocative simplicity of his language and observations of the natural world. He is asking us to pay attention to all of God's creations, even the tiny things. It's a different kind of love.

YOU ARE 1995

Music: Raimonds Pauls
Arrangement: Arvids Platpers
Text: Ojārs Vācietis
Massed choirs
Childrens' and young people's sign language choirs
Honorary Chief Conductor
Arvids Platpers

Be they whispers or fanfares, this song reminds us that wherever you may be or whatever challenges you may face, you will always be a part of Latvia, in fact, you are Latvia yourself.





Izglītības un zinātnes
ministrija



Valsts izglītības
attīstības aģentūra



RĪGA

LIELDRAUGI



ATBALSTĪTĀJI



PARTNERI

PADOMDEVĒJS



SVĒTKUS ATSPUGĻO



LATVIJAS SABIEDRISKAIS MEDIJS



ĪPAŠS PĀLDIES



Pasākuma norise tiks fiksēta audio, audiovizuālā un fotogrāfiju veidā, pamatojoties uz Dziesmu un deju svētku likumu un legītimu interesi, ar nolūku popularizēt svētkus, atspoguļot to norisi, veidojot nemateriālās kultūras mantojumu. Iegūtais materiāls neierobežotu laiku tiks saglabāts un publicēts iepriekš norādītajam nolūkam.

Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra
Valņu iela 1 (3.-6. stāvs), Rīga, LV-1050,
tālr.: +371 67814322, E-pasts: info@viaa.gov.lv
Pasākumā plašsaziņas līdzekļi darbojas saskaņā ar to profesionālo darbību regulējošajiem likumiem un ir atzīstami par patstāvīgiem pārzinīem.