



XVI LATVIEŠU DZIESMU
UN DEJU SVĒTKI
KANADĀ

**KOPKORĀ KONCERTS
“LET’S, LEC, LETTS!”**

MASS CHOIR CONCERT

Sestdiena, 2024. g. 6. jūlijs | Saturday, July 6, 2024
15:00 - 17:30 | 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Roy Thomson Hall
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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Latvian Festival of Song and
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KOPKORĀ KONCERTS “LET’S, LEC, LETTS!”

Mass Choir Concert

Sestdiena, 6. jūlijs, 15:00-17:30 | Saturday, July 6, 3:00 - 5:30 PM
Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe Street

Svētku fanfāres | *Festival Fanfares* Tāļivaldis Ķeniņš
Dāvids Šmits, ērģeles | organ

Kanadas himna | *National Anthem of Canada “O Canada”* Calixa Lavallée
Vārdi | *Words*: R. Stanley Weir & Adolphe-Basile Routhier
harm. Tāļivaldis Ķeniņš

Latvijas himna | *National Anthem of Latvia “Dievs, svētī Latviju!”*
Vārdi un mūzika | *Words and Music*: Kārlis Baumanis
četrbalsīgi iekārtojais | *4-part harmony* by: Helmers Pavasars

Ukrainas himna | *National Anthem of Ukraine* | Державний Гімн України.....
Mykhailo Verbytsky, Pavlo Chubynsky

“Augstākā dzimtene” | *“My Homeland”* Tāļivaldis Ķeniņš
Diriģente | *Conductor*: Ilze Valce
Vārdi | *Words*: Atis Ķeniņš

*My homeland was born from the sorrows of our people,
it grows in might through the spirit of its people.*

“Mazs bij’ tēva novadiņis” latviešu tautas dziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“My Father’s Town Is Small But Mighty” Apdare | *Arrangement*: Helmers Pavasars
Diriģente | *Conductor*: Lilija Zobens

My fatherland was small but mighty! It is a land of plenty.

“Dziedot dzimu, dziedot augu”..... latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“I Was Born Singing, I Grew Up Singing” Apdare | *Arrangement: Alfrēds Kalniņš*
Diriģents | *Conductor: Richards Skulte*

I was born with a song; I was raised through song.

“Oša laiva”.....Rita Strautiņa
“The Ash Boat” Vārdi | *Words: latviešu tautasdziesmas | Latvian folk songs*
Diriģente | *Conductor: Rita Strautiņa*

*A young woman invites her future partner to build a boat with the whitest sails,
and to come and claim her as his wife.*

“Viņpus upes jēri brēca”..... latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“Across the River, the Lambs Were Bleating” Apdare | *Arrangement: Jānis Norvilis*
Diriģents | *Conductor: Jānis Beloglāzovs*

*Across the river, the lambs are braying.
The song draws parallel between the braying lambs and unmarried men.*

“Tumsa, tumsa, kas par tumsu”.....latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“Darkness? I Don't Fear the Dark” Apdare | *Arrangement: Ilze Akerberga*
Diriģente | *Conductor: Andra Zobens-East*

*Who's afraid of darkness? Latvians clearly aren't –
their horses carry starry saddles that enable them to see in dark.*

“Ejme, ejme mōseņas”.....latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“Go, Sisters” Apdare | *Arrangement: Jānis Beloglāzovs*
Diriģents | *Conductor: Jānis Beloglāzovs*

Let's go, sisters, along the river; let's gather hops and make beer!

“Līgo dziesma”.....latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“Midsummer Night's Song” Apdare | *Arrangement: Jānis Kalniņš*
Diriģente | *Conductor: Gaida Rulle*

*Latvian midsummer “Līgo” song. As many “Līgo” songs,
it tells of the preparation for midsummer celebrations.*

“Jāņuvakars” | *“Midsummer’s Night – I Have Been Waiting All Year”*.....Emilis Melngailis
Vārdi | *Words:* latviešu tautasdziesmas | *Latvian folk songs*
Diriģente | *Conductor:* Aira Birziņa
Ieva Parša, mecosoprāns | *mezzo-soprano*
Mārtiņš Klišāns, tenors | *tenor*

*Midsummer’s night is also called “Jāņi”. The god Jānis comes
to people bringing blessings of fertility and good will.*

Improvizācija par Jāņa Cimzes latviešu tautasdziesmas apdari “Rīga dimd” |
Improvisation on Jānis Cimze’s arrangement of the folk song “Rīga Resounds”
Dāvids Šmits, ērģeles | *organ*

“Krauklīt’s sēž ozolā”..... latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“The Little Raven Sits in an Oak Tree” Apdare | *Arrangement:* Jānis Cimze
Diriģente | *Conductor:* Baiba Žēbina
Svētku apvienotais koklētāju ansamblis | *Festival Kokle Ensemble*

*A little raven sits in an oak tree. The raven symbolizes wisdom for Latvians,
and a young man asks the raven about his sister.
She has been taken to Kurzeme and leads a married life there in wealth.*

“Ganiņu deja” | *“Shepherds’ Dance”*.....latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
Apdare | *Arrangement:* Bruno Skulte rediģējis | *revised by:* Andrejs Jansons
Svētku apvienotais koklētāju ansamblis | *Festival Kokle Ensemble*
Vadītāja | *Leader:* Māra Zariņa

“Velējosi, skalojosi”..... latviešu tautasdziesma | *Latvian folk song*
“Build a Boat, and Come Claim Me As Your Bride” Apdare | *Arrangement:* Laura Legzdiņa
Diriģents | *Conductor:* Juris Ķeniņš rediģējis | *revised by:* Juris Ķeniņš
Svētku apvienotais koklētāju ansamblis | *Festival Kokle Ensemble*
Vadītāja | *Leader:* Māra Zariņa
Stīgu kvintets, flauta, klarnete | *String quintet, flute, clarinet*

*Another young woman encourages a young man to build a series of boats.
Unfortunately, the first one is too heavy and sinks.
But the final one can safely carry her away to happiness.*

“Sit kociņu pie kociņa, lai rit saule vakarā” Andris Kontauts
“Bang Your Sticks Together, May the Sun Set” Vārdi | Words: latviešu tautasdziesmas |
Diriģente | Conductor: Egija Ungure Latvian folk songs

*This song is like a ritual. The lyrics tells a story about sticks being banged together,
so that the sun may set in the evening, into the sea.*

“Tumša nakte, zaļa zāle”latviešu tautasdziesma | Latvian folk song
“Dark Night, Green Grass” Apdare | Arrangement: Emīlis Melngailis
Diriģents | Conductor: Allans Arājs

*This song has sacred connotations, it illustrates the strong Latvian belief in nature.
Dark night, green grass – a man lets his horse out to graze and loses it in the fog.
But he isn't worried, he knows God will watch over it.*

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Svinam desmit gadus Ēstis! 2014-2024

“Beverīnas dziedonis” | *“The Bard of Beverīna”* Jāzeps Vītols
Diriģents | Conductor: Farhads Stāde Vārdi | Words: Auseklis
Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra

The Bard of Beverīna – the legend of how song protected people from an armed enemy.

“Dvēseļu kalnā” | *“On the Hill of Souls”* Arvīds Purvs
Diriģente | Conductor: Anna Fogelmane Vārdi | Words: Zenta Liepa
Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra

Those who have suffered the injustices of the world meet on the hill of souls.

“Ukrainiņu precību dziesmas” Apdare | Arrangement: Juris Ķeniņš
“Ukrainian Wedding Songs”

Melodijas: ukraiņu tautasdziesmas | Melodies: Ukrainian folk songs

Vārdi: latviešu tautasdziesmas | Words: Latvian folk songs

Diriģents | Conductor: Pauls Berkolds

Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra

Rūdolfs Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

Ukrainian folk tunes with Latvian folk texts convey the close relationship between the two cultures. The theme of both the Ukrainian songs and the Latvian words is a universal concept: boy meets girl.

“Lūgšana: Dodi mieru mūsu brāļiem” Lolita Ritmane
“Prayer: Grant Peace To Our Fallen Brothers” Vārdi | Words: Aleksandrs Grīns

Diriģente | Conductor: Lolita Ritmane

Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra

Rūdolfs Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

The beautiful prayer from the 2019 film “Dvēseļu Putenis” (Blizzard of Souls).

“Pūt, vējiņi” | *“Blow, Winds”* latviešu tautasdziesma | Latvian folk song
Diriģente | Conductor: Ilze Dūmiņa Apdare | Arrangement: Imants Ramiņš
Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra
Jūlija Norvele, soliste | soloist

In this most beloved of Latvian folk songs, a young man bemoans that the mother of the young woman who was promised to him now refuses, calling him a drunkard.

But this song also represents the hopes and aspirations of the Latvian people.

“Mirdzas dziesma” | “Mirdza’s Song”..... Jāzeps Vītols
Maija Kovaļevska, soprāns | soprano Vārdi | Words: Aspazija
Rūdolf Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

*A song of a water nymph “nāra” calling:
“There are no depths without the water, come and join us!”*

“Sapņu tālumā” | “In a Distant Dream”..... Emīls Dārziņš
Diriģents | Conductor: Matīss Tučs Vārdi | Words: Aspazija

*In distant dreams, in radiant splendour is a fading star: my happiness.
A song about dreaming and longing, about the fragility of goodness and beauty.*

“Ūdensmeitu dziesmiņa” | “The Water Nymphs’ Song”..... Andrejs Jansons
Diriģente | Conductor: Laura Padega Zamura Vārdi | Words: Fricis Bārda
Svētku orķestris | Festival Orchestra

During the summer solstice, water nymphs lure young lovers.

“Bļodniekos vasarā” | “Summers At Bļodnieki”..... Ērika Joste (Yost)
Diriģente | Conductor: Krisīte Skare Vārdi | Words: Natālija Freizere
Rita Strautiņa, kalvierses | piano
Aleksandrs “Saša” Spūrmanis, basa ģitāra | bass guitar
Toby Grace, bungas | drums

Summers are beautiful at my family’s summer estate “Bļodnieki”.

“Pie Hūrona ezera” | “By Lake Huron”..... Arta Jēkabsons
Arta Jēkabsons, balss | vocals Vārdi | Words: Velta Toma
Kaspars Zemītis, ģitāra | guitar
Andrew Downing, kontrabass | contrabass

The story of a woman (the poet Velta Toma) and Lake Huron.

“Dod, Dieviņi” | “Give Unto Us, Oh Lord” Raimonds Tiguls

Diriģente | *Conductor*: Jūlija Norvele

Vārdi | *Words*: Nora Ikstena

Svētku orķestris | *Festival Orchestra*

Lauma Cenne, soliste | soloist

Raimonds Tiguls, klavieres & balss | piano & vocals

Give, God, what you will give; I will accept what you offer with both hands.

This is a song that shows the humble and accepting nature of the Latvian people.

“Koki” | “Trees” Jēkabs Jančevskis

Diriģents | *Conductor*: Ernests Brusubārdis III

Vārdi | *Words*: Inese Zandere

Svētku orķestris | *Festival Orchestra*

Rūdolfs Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

As trees (koki) grow, so does our community constantly grow.

“Lec, Lec, Lec!” | “Jump, Jump, Jump!” Michael Pinsonneault

Vārdi | *Words*: latviešu tautasdziesmas un dainas | *Latvian folk songs and poetry*

Virknējuma apdare | *Medley Arrangement*: Lauma Cenne

Diriģents | *Conductor*: Andrejs Vītols

Svētku orķestris | *Festival Orchestra*

Rūdolfs Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

A playful musical collage of Latvian folk tunes and texts based on the

Festival motto “Let’s, lec, Letts!” with an emphasis on “lec” (jump).

“Gaisma aust!” | “The Sun is Rising!” Ēriks Ešenvalds

Diriģents | *Conductor*: Jānis Beloglāzovs

Vārdi | *Words*: pēc Raiņa

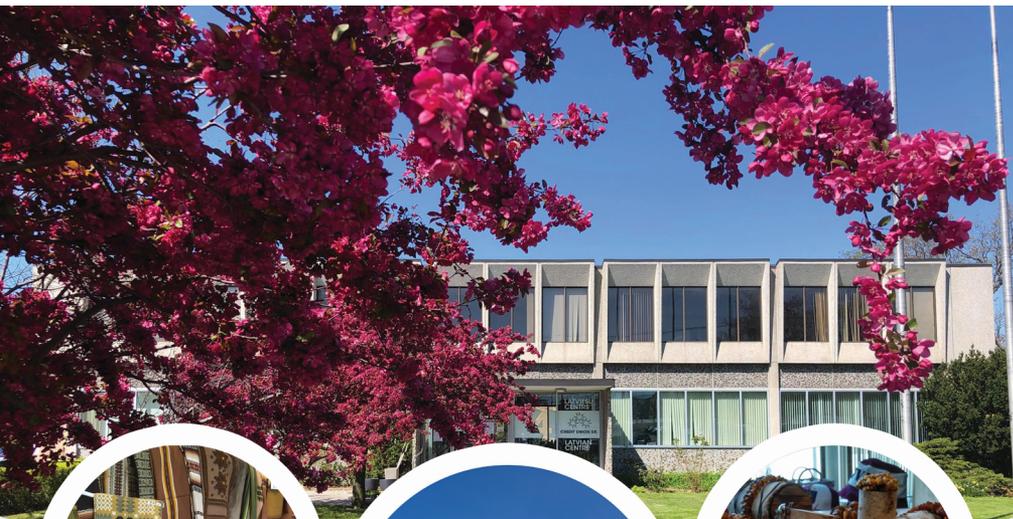
Svētku orķestris | *Festival Orchestra*

Rūdolfs Ozoliņš, klavieres | piano

A text by Latvia’s most famous poet Rainis describes leaving one’s homeland.

Although he was referring to refugees from the 1905 revolution,

the allegory remains valid today.



Sveicam XVI Latviešu Dziesmu svētku Kanādā dalībniekus!

Kanādas Latviešu Centrs Toronto Jums piedāvā dažādas zāles un pasākumu telpas. Papildus telpu īrei, Jūs varat apmeklēt bibliotēku, piedalīties deju un koru mēģinājumos, iepirkties vienīgajā Kanādas latviešu veikalā, kas piedāvā plašu preču klāstu no Latvijas.

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Dzīva vide – dzīvai tautai!

KORI | CHOIRS

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Alberts Vītols

KONTRABASS | DOUBLE BASS

Andrew Downing

FLAUTA | FLUTE

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Mēs pateicamies par iespēju daudzīnāt un svinēt latviešu kultūru, tradīcijas, valodu, mūziku un deju šajā teritorijā.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Latvian Song Festival Association in Canada acknowledges this land, known as Tkaronto, and honours the stewardship, past, present and future of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

We are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Latvian culture, our traditions, language, music and dance on this territory.

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WHAT EVERY FOREIGN OWNER OF PROPERTY IN LATVIA MUST KNOW

Prospective Buyers that Contact Foreign Owners via Post, Email or Telephone – Various companies, and especially forest “management” (actually “logging”) companies (of which NONE, should be trusted!) search property tax registers and property title registers looking only for foreign owners of property in Latvia, and contact them via post, email, Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn, offering below-market value offers to purchase their property. They act very friendly and nice, but, they are not your friends. They search specifically for foreign Latvians because foreign Latvians have no idea what their property is truly worth and are much too quick to trust someone, just because they speak Latvian. Usually, such companies lie and state that they are neighbors, or are buying the property in the area, or want to help you “manage” your forest. In short, they are looking to take advantage of you either because of unfamiliarity with the property market in Latvia, or your total lack of understanding of basic timber valuation, and thus you can be easily tricked into selling your property for a fraction of its true value.

Property Valuation Basics: There is no such thing as an average price per hectare for farmland or forest in Latvia. If you ask for such a price from a potential buyer, this buyer instantly knows you are clueless. Forest can be densely growing 100 year old pines, which is much, much, more valuable than sparsely growing 5 year old poplar. A great hectare (one hectare) of forest can be worth +17,000 USD (NET). Farmland can be of high fertility, with good drainage, and right next to it can be unfertile, semi-swampland. Every situation must be individually analyzed and appraised. Also note, the cadastral value (state set value of land on which property taxes are based) has no correlation to market value. For farmland and forest usually, it can be 10% (yes ten) or less than the actual market value. Having an appraisal is not enough. You need an expert like me to show you the holes in the appraisals. Also note that standard appraisals DO NOT account for timber value!!!

Property Management Agreements: When Latvia regained its independence, various companies would travel around Latvian Community Centers or to Song Festivals offering foreign Latvians to “manage” or “help sell” their properties. This still does occur, even in **2024 in Toronto!** You must be very careful, and have a trusted, independent attorney review any such agreements. This is how foreign Latvians get ripped off the most, by signing one-sided agreements. NEVER SIGN A LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR FOREST OR ANY TYPE OF PROPERTY. SUCH ARE NEVER NEEDED. There are hundreds of property management and forest companies in Latvia. I trust only a handful.

Powers of Attorney (POA): „Pilnvaras” must be issued only to parties that you know and 100% trust. Have an attorney review the text of any POA. Numerous times I have seen properties stolen, sold below market value, or forest clear cut and money stolen, without the knowledge of the property owner, because of an overly broad POA. You may say, “but we can sue such a party in court”. Even if there is justification for court action, litigation can take years and cost a great deal of money, and the resulting judgement of the court can be totally illogical. The best course of action is to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place. NEVER give a POA to a forest “manager” for any purpose WITHOUT using an attorney. You will certainly get ripped off!

Family Involvement: If you know that your elderly parents or grandparents own property, get actively involved. Very often parties from Latvia try to take advantage of foreign elderly persons. If someone asks you to “decide today or the buyer may disappear”, don’t believe them. They are lying. There is absolutely no rush. Take your time. Get two appraisals and trusted counsel with 15+ years of experience (hint → that is me!).

Matīss D. Kukainis. J.D. LL.M. Attorney / Advokāts T: + 371.2839.0346 E: matiss@ska.lv

I am an attorney licensed in the Republic of Latvia and the State of Illinois (currently inactive, as I practice in Latvia). I was born and raised in Michigan. I have lived in Latvia for about 20 years. In 2008 I co-founded the Latvian Law Office Spigulis & Kukainis, a team of 16+ persons, located in Riga, Latvia. I am the current President of the Norwegian Chamber of Commerce in Latvia and the former President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia. I have taught law at various institutions in Latvia. My late father Jānis was formerly the president of the PBLA (Pasaules Brīvo Latviešu Apvienība) and ALA (American Latvian Association). My brother Roberts is the Honorary Consul for Latvia for South Carolina (USA) and the Chairman of the LBF (Latvijas Brīvības Fonds). I am a graduate of GVV (Garezera Vasaras Vidusskola) and a member of the fraternity Talavija. I have vast experience with forest/timber and farmland valuation issues. Contact me with any questions regarding the inheritance, sale, lease, or management of property in Latvia, including all questions about wills and trusts. First consultations are free!

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