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THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

**LATVIAN
SONG FESTIVAL**

JULY 27, 28, 29, 1951

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Manager: C. S. Taylor

CHORAL CONCERT

KINGSWAY HALL

Kingsway, W.C.2

CONCERT OF LATVIAN MUSIC

WIGMORE HALL

Wigmore Street, W.1

RECITAL OF SONGS

KENSINGTON ART GALLERY

15 St. Mary Abbot's Terrace, W.8

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

By VALDEMARS TONE

JULY 11 to AUGUST 4

KENSINGTON ART GALLERY

15 ST. MARY ABBOT'S TERRACE, W.8

(continuation of Kensington High Street. 'Buses 9, 27, 28, 49, 73)

ART EXHIBITION

Paintings by

VALDEMARS TONE

Valdemars Tone, born in 1892, is one of the foremost Latvian painters. Professor at the Academy of Arts in Riga. He belonged to the so-called "Riga Group"; these were artists who, in their youth, were trying to find new ways, have by experimental methods developed their own individual style. By a very personal use of the elements of painting—colour, light and space—Tone obtains a very delicate approach to the subtlest nuances of the human personality.

ADMISSION 1/- AT THE ENTRANCE

SUNDAY, JULY 29, at 2.30 p.m.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Manager: C. S. Taylor

CHORAL CONCERT

COMBINED LATVIAN CHOIRS

A CAPELLA SONGS
and
FOLK SONGS

Conductors:

TEODORS REITERS

ROBERTS ZUIKA

ALBERTS JERUMS

A combined mixed choir and a combined male choir will sing Latvian songs. The choirs have been working in small units all over Britain throughout the year, under their own conductors and supervised by the principal conductors, who have been constantly travelling around for this purpose. The singers are all Latvians who have come to Great Britain in recent years as refugees, not being able to return to their homeland behind the IRON CURTAIN. They have found hospitality in this country and are engaged in British economic life in various industries—mining, agriculture, textiles, hospitals, etc.

TICKETS: 7/6, 5/-, 3/6 and 2/6

from Box Office, Royal Albert Hall (Kensington 8212); Chappells, 50 New Bond Street, W.1; usual Ticket Offices, and

IBBS & TILLET LTD., 124 Wigmore Street, W.1 (Welbeck 8418)

SATURDAY, JULY 28, at 7.30 p.m.

KINGSWAY HALL

Kingsway, W.C.2

CONCERT OF
LATVIAN MUSIC

(ALL NEW WORKS)

KSENIJA BIDINA (Contralto)

ALAN LOVEDAY (Violin)

JANIS OZOLINS (Violoncello)

DAGMAR KOKKER (Pianoforte)

Sonata for Violoncello and Pianoforte	TALIVALDIS KENINS
Sonata for Pianoforte - - -	VOLFGANGS DARZINS
Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte - -	JANIS MEDINS
Sonata for Violin and Pianoforte - -	ALBERTS JERUMS
Songs by KENINS	

TICKETS : 5/- and 3/6

from Chappell's, 50 New Bond Street, W.1; usual Ticket Offices; and
IBBS & TILLET LTD., 124 Wigmore Street, W.1 (Welbeck 8418)

(Tickets from Kingsway Hall on night of Concert only)

FRIDAY, JULY 27, at 7.30 p.m.

WIGMORE HALL

Wigmore Street, W.1

RECITAL OF
LATVIAN SONGS

MARIJA VINTERE (Soprano)

GAIDA TREZINA (Mezzo-Soprano)

EDVINS KRUMINS (Baritone)

DAGMAR KOKKER (Pianoforte)

Songs by

DARZINS, MEDINS, ABELE, JERUMS, Etc.

TICKETS : 7/6, 6/- and 3/6

from the Box Office, Wigmore Hall (Welbeck 2141); Chappell's,
50 New Bond Street, W.1; usual Ticket Offices, and

IBBS & TILLET LTD., 124 Wigmore Street, W.1 (Welbeck 8418)

VSA

THE LATVIAN SONG FESTIVALS are a traditional feature of the cultural life of the Latvian nation. They were the rallying point of the national spirit and of the creative forces in all the arts. The nearest parallel is perhaps the Welsh Eisteddfod, but as in the case of all analogies the parallel is not an exact likeness.

The Latvian Song Festivals began in the middle of the 19th century and to a large extent they made the people's will for freedom, which had been smouldering under oppression, burn like a bright flame, unextinguishable. Much of what is best and most cherished in the Latvian national heritage has received the warmth necessary for growth from the tradition of the Festivals. The Latvian national anthem: "Dievs Svētī Latviju" (God Bless Latvia—a prayer of the Latvian people for freedom) was first heard at a Song Festival. The nation-wide movement to collect and preserve Latvian folk songs might not have had the same enthusiastic response had not the Song Festivals kept the love of the ancient songs constantly alive.

On a national scale the song festivals were held every five years. On these occasions a mass choir, sometimes up to 20,000 singers strong congregated in the capital. There were numerous artistic activities covered by the Song Festivals Prizes for new songs were announced and their authors hailed. There were concerts of new music, theatrical productions and art exhibitions. All this marked the song festival season with a particular accent on stimulating the creative artist.

Now the Latvian people are scattered all over the world. Some are in the slave labour camps of Siberia, some are still in their native land, and some have sought refuge among the hospitable free nations of the West. At home in Latvia the cruel oppressor is prostituting the Song Festival tradition and turning it into a tool of propaganda for the régime. The free people in the service of art and nation has been turned into a parade of frightened, regimented slaves—in a grotesque cult of Stalin, whose enormous ephigy is there to tower over everything.

In the Free World the flame is kept alive. While the Latvians were living in large numbers in the D.P. camps in Germany several song festivals were held; and in Britain the present one is the third. We cannot aspire to the same magnitude and splendour as once accompanied the Song Festivals in Riga, but we are faithful to the spirit. Folk songs, songs like the Castle of Light which have become inseparable from any Song Festival programme, and the bright colours of the national dress are all there. We are also faithful to the tradition of cultivating new music. The works to be performed at the Kingsway Hall Concert are all new creations, and most of the songs to be heard at the Wigmore Hall concert also. The exhibition of the paintings of Prof. Valdemars Tone is also part of the same tradition.

Every Latvian who is present at the Festival will leave the concert halls strengthened to carry on against the odds of modern history. Once more the Latvians will have been united in the fervent prayer of the National Anthem:

GOD BLESS LATVIA.