



ROYAL ALBERT HALL

(Manager: C. S. Taylor)

THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL

Choral Concert
Combined Latvian Choirs

Conductors:

TEODORS REITERS ROBERTS ZUIKA ALBERTS JERUMS

Sunday, 29 July, 1951, at 2.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

IBBS & TILLET LTD.
124 Wigmore Street, W.1

Programme

I

Opening Speech by the Latvian Minister in London

Monsieur KARLIS ZARINS

MIXED CHOIRS:

1. Nature and Soul - - - - *E. Melngailis*

Words by J. Rainis

The skies do not know how vast they are, the sun is unaware of its own heat. The tiny plant is born from the soil knowing the beauty of her bright blue blossoms. The soul is conscious of the depths of the skies, the soul is conscious of the sun's great heat. The beauty of her own great depth the soul knows not, but the unknown, too, shall yet be known.

2. Birch Trees - - - - *H. Pavasars*

Words by Fr. Barda

The birch trees of my native land stand pale in little groups and with their outstretched hands they bless the sprouting grass. An old greyhaired ploughman walks through the fields talking to the souls of the flowers. The birch trees see the native land covered in blossoms, but it is far, far away.

3. The Summer - - - - *J. Zalitis*

Soprano Solo: MARIJA VINTERE

Words by K. Skalbe

The sun's yellow flag is triumphantly hoisted on every house. The black-bird whistles a military march. The million army of flowers invades the country and all the little birds are shouting: "Long live, long live. . . ."

4. Moonlight Strings - - - - *E. Darzins*

Words by Aspazija

Moonbeams weave strings across the clear deep waters. It seems that distant voices call me there. In a fairy boat with golden sails and silver oars I shall sail away to the land of happiness.

5. The Princess - - - - *J. Vitols*

Words by J. Rainis

On that fierce day blood was spurting in waves. The Castle sank and the Princess with it. The Castle has been sunk for 600 years, the walls are of amber, the floors of green brass; mother of pearl ceilings are supported by steel-blue beams. The Princess sits there and spins lightning. The Castle will rise and the light from the lighting yarn will embrace all sufferers. Blood will spurt again on the days the Castle rises.

Conductor: TEODORS REITERS

MALE CHOIRS:

6. Brethren, let us sing - - - - *J. Graubins*
Folk Song

Let us sing while we're together. God knows where we shall be next year. Some of us will be in the warriors' flock, others will rest in the graveyard on the hill.

7. The Boat of Souls - - - - *V. Bastiks*
Words by J. Rainis

A black boat takes away the souls along the river of eternity. The boat is overladen. Many, many, very many still. . . .

Conductor: ALBERTS JERUMS

8. The Fiery Log - - - - *J. Vitols*
Words by Brigadere

Viesturs, King of the ancient Zemgali, a tribe of the Latvians, was camping near Aizkraukle when he was suddenly surrounded by the German knights. He grabbed a burning log from the camp fire, fought the Germans with it and won.

9. The evening light is fading - - - - *E. Melngailis*
Words by J. Poruks

A voice is calling from the minaret to all tired men inviting them to a quiet prayer.

10. I saddled a forest skunk - - - - *H. Pavasars*
Folk Song

A young man saddles a common forest skunk and goes out in search of a wife. In his journey he reaches Prussia when fine gentlemen offer him a lot of money for the extraordinary mount. While the gentlemen count their money he and the skunk slink away into a burrow.

Conductor: ROBERTS ZUIKA

MALE CHOIRS:

11. Rebirth - - - - *A. Feils*
Words by K. Eliass

The song celebrates the rebirth of the spirit of ancient Latvians. Glory be to those who fought, Glory be to those who lead them into battle.

12. Ploughmen - - - - *J. Kalnins*
Tenor Solo: ARVIDS TILAKS
Folk Song

The ploughmen are sitting in a row, wondering if the summer will be fine and warm. God did give a good summer.

13. In a Boat I sailed - - - - *A. Jerums*
Folk Song

A young man goes bird shooting on a lake. Which to shoot, they all are beautiful? The one he shoots sinks deep into the water and he tries to fish her out with a golden hook.

14. Kikuriku - - - - - *A. Abele*
Folk Song

The inconsiderate cockerel sings much too early waking the young man to work just at the moment when his bride has so nicely got warm in his arms. Let the wolves heap the corn in the barn, let the mice thresh it.

15. Dies Irae - - - - - *J. Vitols*
Words by Pludons

Viesturs has risen from his grave. He comes big and majestic to announce justice. He helps his sons to end the battles that had to leave unfinished.

Conductor: ALBERTS JERUMS

16. Spring Song - - - - - *J. Poruks*
Folk Song

Winter ices, go away, let the grass grow green! Many a sleepless night I have spent with thoughts of you in my heart. Now the apple trees are white with blossom, so are the girls and the boys have no peace.

17. There is Shelter behind the Bush - - - *J. Graubins*
Mezzo-Soprano Solo: GAIDA TREZINA
Folk Song

There is shelter behind the bush, small or large it's all the same. Life is good beside a husband, small or big it makes no difference. God is pleased that we are happy, people envy us. Let's live happier still, people will be more envious.

18. The Forest Edge was Trembling - - - *J. Graubins*
Folk Song

All the forest edge was trembling from the dancing at the wedding of the wolf and the vixen's daughter. The beads and trinkets of the dancing girls were jingling gaily.

19. The Bard of Beverina - - - - - *J. Vitols*
Words by AUSEKLIS

The ancient castle of Beverina was surrounded by enemies. There was little hope. Then suddenly in the high window of the castle an old bard appeared. He played his lyre and sang. The enemies' weapons fell out of the soldiers' hands. The power of song had won, the nation was saved.

Conductor: TEODORS REITERS

Organ: EDUARDS SENFELDS

KENSINGTON ART GALLERY

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

Paintings by

VALDEMARS TONE

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