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LATVIJAS  
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**TENTH LATVIAN  
SONG FESTIVAL  
IN GREAT BRITAIN  
LEICESTER  
24-26 JULY 1981**

LATVIAN DANCING DISPLAY

De Montfort Hall, Granville Road, Leicester

Saturday 25th July 10:30 a.m.

78

## PROGRAMME NOTES

The folk-song verses (F.S.V.) recited and sung have been translated without retaining their verse structure.

### **Introduction**

*F.S.V. Let those who want to sleep and laze about, do so with tears and crying. Let those who want to work, do so accompanied by singing.*

**Talkas deja** (*The dance for working together*)

*F.S.V. Many people have come to help do a big job. Lady of the household, go and open the door for all the helpers. // The job was done with much accompanying singing; now beer is needed to quench the workers' thirst.*

### **Bālelīpi**

A display dance choreographed to show the activities of a group of corn threshers, who, on becoming tired look for smaller flails and a large beer tankard. Having finished their work, they close the doors of the threshing barn.

*F.S.V. The horses of the corn threshers have become tired by working through the night until dawn. The threshers themselves are also tired, having worked without eating or drinking.*

**Sudmalīpas** (*The windmill*)

A traditional Latvian dance in which the movement of the dancers shows the turning of the mill-sails.

*F.S.V. The mill was joyful on seeing that flour milling would start. Dear God, let there be a fresh wind while the white flour is being ground. // The threshers have threshed the corn, the millers have ground the grain; now there is time for rejoicing.*

### **Kamolīpdeja**

A traditional dance depicting the winding of wool from skeins into a ball.

*F.S.V. I had enough balls of wool to fill an ox cart, and so I have woven a roll of cloth the length of Daugava (Western Dvina). // Let all us neighbourhood girls work together.*

**Runcītis** (*The little tom-cat*)

A dance and game for children based on a folk-song about the work of tom-cat, his journey to Riga and dancing in Riga castle.

*F.S.V. Dear tom-cat, what were you doing while sitting on a boulder? Did you think about travelling to Riga with a load of mice? // The castle of Riga jingled while the cats danced, the female cats in golden shoes and the tom-cats wearing copper boots.*

### **Sprēdējīpas**

A display dance for the stage.

*F.S.V. A field of flax bloomed brightly with blue flowers. A diligent girl spun the linen into a long thread. You will need to do a lot of spinning to make all the dowry cloth.*

**Audēju deja** (*The weavers' dance*)

The pattern of the dance symbolises weaving.

*F.S.V. Our young sister was as lively as the roach in the lake, and the cloth she wove was as transparent as the ice on the lake. // The room in which the girls work is full of the sounds of weaving.*

**Kaķīši** (*The little cats!*)

This dance resulted from completing a task set at a Latvian Youth Study Fortnight at Calthorpe Manor in 1978. The way it was arranged by a group of young people places it well within the overriding theme of work as portrayed by this Dancing Display.

*F.S.V.* Only a small amount of work can be done by a single person. However, when many workers come together, large tasks can be completed. // Even the bees work together to produce the honey.

**Kamolipš** (*The ball of wool*)

The choreography of this dance is based on a folk-song from the province of Latgale. The various movements depict the girls working with balls of wool, making various items of clothing for the hoped-for suitors.

*F.S.V.* Young men, prepare the spills for lighting the room in the evening. The maidens will be coming to knit and as a reward you can expect a pair of mittens. // The basket of balls of wool overturned. The youngest men are asked to come and help gather them together.

**Raibie cimdi** (*The brightly patterned mittens*)

Prior to marriage a girl would prepare several pairs of mittens as gifts for her future in-laws, with extra care given to the bridegroom's. In this dance the colourfully knitted mittens are used to tease a prospective suitor, giving the girls a chance to show off their handiwork.

*F.S.V.* A young maiden knits a pair of mittens with colourful patterns to entice a young man. // A young man teases the maiden by saying that it had taken her three years to knit a pair of mittens.

**Rakstītāja** (*The embroiderer*)

A display dance with choreography based on a folk-song describing the industriousness of a needle in the hands of a young maiden while embroidering her brother's war pennant and preparing her dowry.

*F.S.V.* Fire and sparks set alight a large forest; the needle, although small, completes large tasks such as embroidering a maiden's dowry and her brother's war pennant.

**Ganiņu polka** (*The herd-keeper's polka*)

A social dance for pairs, with choreography based on the experiences of a young herd-keeper.

*F.S.V.* The young herd-keeper is coming home with even his stomach blue from cold. Dear mother, bake some bread to warm him up. // Life was difficult for a young herdsman. He was punished for being late in driving the animals to their pastures or if he arrived home too soon.

**Linību talka** (*Flax gathering*)

Latvian folk-songs often mention the rich blue of the flowering "linen" fields. The processing of flax was a communal event, where both men and women had certain energetic parts to play in the gathering, separating, soaking and shredding of the fibrous plant. Many comments would pass between the workers about each other's ability and skill with more than a thought on the well-earned festivities to follow.

*F.S.V.* Dear mother, let me take part in flax harvesting and processing as it is such a jolly task with crackling sounds, whereas the task of gathering in barley and rye requires lots of swaying and bending.

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**Zvejniekdancis** (*The fisherman's dance*)

A social dance for pairs based on a folk-song theme describing the making of a boat and sailing it on the sea.

*F.S.V. Father, dear, make a boat for me. Brother, dear, weave a white sail for me, so that in the sea I can play with the North-wind. It thrashes the water into white foam, which, however, cannot match the whiteness of the sail. // Blow, North-wind, blow. Drive silver to this land. Here wives and maidens adorn themselves with silver jewellery.*

**Aditājas** (*The knitters*)

This dance portrays the two major elements involved in knitting - the gradual progression of the stitches and the varied patterns in the article. The dance commences with the 'casting on of loops', the girls representing the wool and the boys the needle; this is followed by the slow emergence of the article as the wool passes to and fro. In later stages various patterns are danced, while ribbons are used to emphasise the main pattern - the sun (saulīte)

*F.S.V. A knitter and an embroiderer live near a main road. Brother, dear, take the knitter as your wife and leave the embroiderer alone. She only embroiders her dowry, whereas the knitter makes garments for the whole household.*

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