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THE 4th LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL IN EUROPE

London, 26th — 31st July, 1977



ROYAL ALBERT HALL

General Manager: A. J. Charlton

Choral Concert

Sunday 31st July 2.30 p.m.

INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
OF EVENTS COVERING



The Queen's Silver Jubilee
London Celebrations 1977

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Latvijas Nacionālā
BIBLIOTĒKA

PROGRAMME

LATVIAN BALLAD (J. Akuraters)

Underneath Latvian soil slumber heroes and the legend of freedom.
Hawks fly overhead, scrutinizing centuries.
And then thunder and lightning shatter the nightmare of bondage.
Days sparkle like golden bells:
God save Latvia.

*Soloists Ruta Gerke and Ksenija Bidina
Conductor Alberts Jerums*

A WREATH OF WATER LILIES (A. Kenins)

Pass through the blaze of the sunset, pilgrim, let the blue shadows
of twilight lead you on, to the shores of the black river.
Night stands by the black river knotting a wreath of water lilies.
He who receives this cool white wreath will peacefully sleep.
Will peacefully sleep under roses. Under roses.

THE SUNNY RIVER BOAT (A. Svabe)

Shine sun upon the lazy boy's boat, rock him gently, waves.
Rock him gently, waves, all life long.

Conductor Arvids Purvs

ALIEN LAND (Folk song)

The cuckoo and the nightingale—but our sister weeps in an alien land.
Weep not, dear sister, do not lament, I will build a
bridge across the wide sea.
I will visit you every evening.

The cuckoo and the nightingale—but our sister weeps in an alien land.

PRAY THE SUN SET EARLY (Folk song)

A black serpent grinds corn
In the middle of the sea;
Time will grind our harsh masters.
Pray the sun set early
Grants us eventide.

*Soloists Lilija Zobena and Ksenija Bidina
Conductor Alberts Jerums*

HIGH MOUNTAINS BEYOND THE LAKE

High mountains beyond the lake ripen red berries.
Bitterly a maiden complains, I will not wed her.
Weep you or weep you not, I will not take you.
Three beautiful sisters are mine:
Flaxen haired, grey eyed, redlipped.

BOY COWHERD (Folk song)

Rain and wind tease the boy in an open field,
Trees and grasses shelter and clothe him.
Come, wagtail, gird yourself to herd cattle.
Grazz, my cows, do not trample the grass.
My favourite heifer with cowship feet
Showers petals running up the hillside.

Conductor Arvids Purvs

WHO BROUGHT YOU UP BEAUTIFUL MAID? (Folk song)

Who brought you up, beautiful maid,
I never saw you.
My mother tended me
In a rose garden.
Who brought you up, handsome lad?
I never saw you.
My brother reared me
By a great sea.
Make haste, grow up, beautiful maid,
I will come wooing
Take you as bride
To my blue waters.

Soloists Gaida Trezina and Ksenija Bidina

NOW LET OUR SONG SWAY THE TREES OF THE FOREST (Folk song)

All grasses, all flowers are Ligo flowers,
Picked on Midsummer's Eve;
All folk, all children are Janis' children,
Who come on Midsummer's Eve.
Now let our song sway the trees of the forest, ligo, ligo,
In celebration, in jubilation, ligo.
Now let the winds carry song far and wide, ligo, ligo,
To foreign lands and to foreign people, ligo.

Conductor Marks Opeskins

I N T E R V A L


KING VIESTURS AND THE CLUB OF FIRE (A. Brigadere)

It happened that Viesturs, mighty Zemgalian,
 Was trapped by invaders like a lion caged.
 Gloomily pondered the king at the campfire:
 As long as I can stand—free will be Tervete.
 A snake in the grass, a creeping crusador
 With dagger pointed sneaks up from behind.
 But Viesturs seizes a log from the campfire
 And crashes it down on the treacherous foe.
 Then without apseue the mighty Zemgalian
 Plaughs into the scattering, dumbfounded enemy.
 Free remained Tervete, free remained Zemgale.
 Remember, brothers, root out traitors
 With lightning fire.

LIGHT FROM THE SEA (K. Skalbe)

The calm light from the sea
 Caresses my body
 And craddles my brooding sorrows.
 An unfurling storm awakens me.

HORSEMAN AND VILLAGE BEAUTY (Folk song)

I rode day and night
 And came to a deep spring
 Where a maiden was washing.
 Will you water my horse today
 And for the rest of our lives?
 I will water your horse today,
 But not for the rest of our lives.

Soloist Jana Grinberga

LOVE AND THE WOLF AND THE FOAL (Folk song)

The youth has no time to rescue his horse from the
 wolf, the village girls are asking for kisses

Conductor Roberts Zuika

SWAMP WOOD (Pludons)

The mother of forests has seven beautiful daughters
 with hair fluttering like hawk's wings and will o'
 the wisp eyes.
 Men are lost there by moonlight.
 Do not enter the wood, my son, beware of their birdsong
 laughter, their smouldering passion.
 Do not enter the wood. . .

Soloists Ruta Gerke and Gaida Trezina

I SING MAGNIFICENTLY (Folk song)

In the evenings I sing, when the winds carry my voice across nine counties.
 High I sing, I sing low, like a bell and like a bird. The winds carry
 my voice across nine counties.
 The mother of sons' halts in her step—"Listen", she says, "my
 daughter-to-be is singing".

Soloist Lilija Zobena

Conductor Alberts Jerums

FAR BEYOND DREAMS (Aspazija)

Far beyond dreams has my happiness fled,
 Shimmering past recall

Conductor Marks Opeskins

FATHERLAND (A. Jurjans)

Lord God we pray to you: Grant your grace to Latvia.
 Cantata for soprano, mixed choir and organ

Soloist Ileana Petersone

Conductor Arvids Purvs

LATVIA (Pludons)

Our mother Latvia—Proud like the sea,
 Exalted like the sun—For ever be.

Organist Anita Rundane

English versions and resumes of songs by Velta Snikere