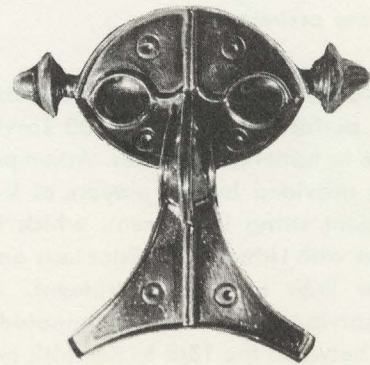


## LATVIA AND LATVIANS

Latvia, comparable in size to half of the State of New York, is situated on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. The countries which border Latvia are Estonia on the North, Lithuania on the South and the U.S.S.R. on the East. Latvia is predominantly an agricultural country. Through the past centuries it has been conquered and ruled by the Slavic, Germanic and Scandinavian rulers due to its geographically and strategically advantageous location.



9th CENTURY DESIGN OF A BROOCH

Latvians and their neighbors, the Lithuanians, belong to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European family of nations. They have inhabited the northeastern shores of the Baltic Sea from at least 1500 B.C. The Latvian language is considered one of the oldest spoken languages today. It is a distinct language with no relationship to the German or Slavic languages.

In 1918 Latvia gained her freedom and independence and emerged as an independent country. This year marks the 50th anniversary (1918-1968) since the proclamation of the independence of Latvia.

With the beginning of the second World War, Latvia was invaded by both the Russian and the German armies. Latvia, as well as Lithuania and Estonia, was forcibly occupied and illegally incorporated into the U.S.S.R. Genocide, terror, economic exploitation and sovietization—these have been the main features of the Soviet rule in Latvia since its occupation.

During 1940, the first year of the Soviet occupation, 33,000 of the Latvian population was forcibly deported to Siberia. Since 1940 it is estimated that 15% of the Latvians have been forcibly expelled from their land by the Soviets.



LATVIAN COSTUMES



LATVIAN FOLK DANCERS

In 1944 about 150,000 Latvians fled their homeland as the Soviets once again were advancing to occupy Latvia. About 50,000 of these Latvians have found new homes in the United States. The present population of Latvia exceeds two million people.

The United States has continuously declared non-recognition of the Soviet annexation of Latvia. Latvian diplomatic representatives continue to function in Washington, D.C. and other Western capitals.



ARTS AND CRAFTS



# LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL

CLEVELAND, OHIO

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2, 1968



BALTIC COUNTRIES IN 1944



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1968

### CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

TRINITY CATHEDRAL (Euclid and 22nd)  
8:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

### ART AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

STATLER-HILTON HOTEL  
AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 2  
OPEN DAILY 9:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

### LATVIAN THEATER

MASONIC TEMPLE (Euclid and 36th)  
12:00 NOON

### LATVIAN FOLK DANCES

CLEVELAND ARENA, 4:00 P.M.  
3717 EUCLID AVENUE

### LATVIAN COMPOSERS' CONCERT

MUSIC HALL, 8:00 P.M.

### FRIENDSHIP DANCE

CLEVELAND-SHERATON HOTEL, 10:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

VARIOUS CHURCHES, 9:00 A.M.

### WRITERS' SESSION

CLEVELAND-SHERATON HOTEL, 11:00 A.M.

### PROCESSION OF SINGERS TO PUBLIC AUDITORIUM, 1:30 P.M.

### GRAND CONCERT

PUBLIC AUDITORIUM, 2:30 P.M.

### FESTIVAL BALL

CLEVELAND-SHERATON HOTEL, 8:30 P.M.  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### LATVIAN ANCIENT WEDDING TRADITIONS

A MUSICAL PORTRAYAL  
MASONIC TEMPLE (Euclid and 36th)  
11:00 A.M.

## WHAT IS A SONG FESTIVAL?

A Latvian Song Festival is an outstanding cultural event which is closely linked to the political history of Latvia. The origin of this event dates back nearly a century when Latvians were subjugated by a foreign power and could express their desire for national identity and freedom only through their songs, folk dances, and other expressive arts. The discovery of rich cultural treasures contributed to the unity and self-esteem of the nation. When Latvia gained her independence 50 years ago, the tradition of Song Festivals was retained and developed to the fullest.

Now Latvia is under foreign domination but the cherished tradition of Song Festivals offers the expression of common purpose and hope. The purpose is to retain the Latvian culture, and the hope is that the Latvian people might sing their songs in a free Latvia.

Thus a Song Festival for Latvians is not just a common event, but it is a national institution. This Song Festival is sponsored by the American Latvian Association in the United States, Inc., and will attract more than 10,000 Latvians and Americans.

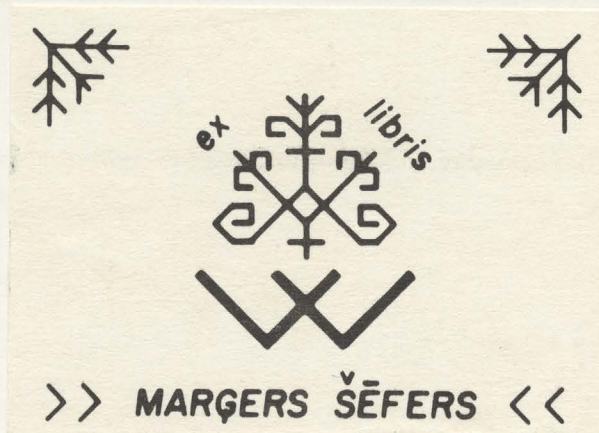
## WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SONG FESTIVAL

A varied program of vocal and instrumental music that has been chosen from the traditional repertory as well as from the works of contemporary Latvian composers will be featured in the three concerts. Folk songs, chosen from the approximately 12,000 folk melodies and arranged for mixed choirs, will be heard together with cantatas, symphonic music, vocal and instrumental solos. The central event of the festival is the grand concert in national costumes, coming from the different parts of the U. S. and Canada, will sing a cappella and together with a 50-member symphony orchestra.

A colorful visual and aural spectacle should be the performance by the 400 Latvian folk dancers in national costumes. Accompaniment will be provided by the players of *kokles*, an ancient string instrument, which Latvians together with Lithuanians, Estonians and Finns, consider their national instrument. Most of these Latvian folk dances originated in the period between the 13th to the 16th centuries. They may be symbolic and ritualistic or may playfully stress the simple joy of pure movement.

Throughout the festival a collection of paintings representing the various schools of expression will be displayed. The arts and crafts exhibition will feature original art forms and designs, some of which are 3000 years old and have been handed down from generation to generation. Yet, Latvian arts and crafts find ornamental and practical application in modern life.

There will be other events including religious services, a musical, a play, and several dances. All of these are important and revealing parts of the whole — the Latvian Song Festival.



For Further Information Contact:

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