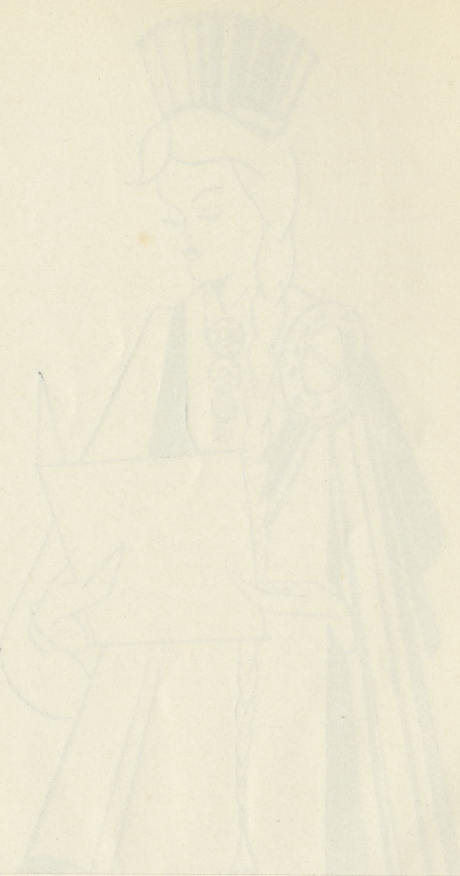




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LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL



>> **MARĢERS ŠĒFERS** <<

SPONSORED BY  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# GRAND CONCERT

JUNE 23, 1962 – 5:00 P.M. AT MEANY HALL

ON UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S CAMPUS



FEATURING COMBINED MIXED CHORUS

CONSISTING OF CHORAL GROUPS FROM:

*LONGVIEW, WASH.*

*PORTLAND, ORE.*

*SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.*

*SEATTLE, WASH.*

*VANCOUVER, B. C.*

*TACOMA, WASH.*  
*MALE CHORUS "KRIVS"*

*OAKLAND, CAL.*

## TO OUR LISTENERS:

People with a detectable accent in their English are often confronted with this question: "Where do you come from?" In this case the answer is Latvia. This country to the majority of Americans is just a word not readily associable with its place on the map and much less with Latvian culture and traditions.

Located in Northeast Europe, Latvia covers less than half the area of Washington state with a population of about 2.5 million who speak Latvian, one of the oldest spoken languages in the world. Because of its geographical location (access to the Baltic Sea) and size, the Latvians have constantly been threatened by their neighbors and only enjoyed 22 years of independence and freedom in its history (1918—1940). At the present time Latvia is once again enslaved by its neighbor—Communist Russia. However, a considerable number of Latvians fled from the totalitarian regime and have found freedom and home in America where they can congregate and maintain their culture and traditions.

Our concert program features works only by Latvian composers and arrangements of folksongs. Although quite a number of outstanding composers are represented, all of the works have something in common. History, geographical location and environment are what bring about this something which can not readily be defined, yet is unique and characteristic to only one country.

The first part of our concert program uncovers the feelings and hopes of Latvia when it was oppressed and in slavery. Sad mood and despair are intermixed with willingness to fight and hope for a better future.

In the second part you will hear works of a romantic nature, somewhat less serious and dealing with the brighter side of human longings, memories and expectations.

The third part is devoted to Latvian folksongs—our nation's greatest pride. There have been recorded in excess of 7 000 melodies and variations of Latvian folksongs. For every occasion there is a folksong with appropriate lyrics and melody. These folksongs reflect the history of Latvia, therefore the majority of them are sad in mood. However, we have numerous gay and frivolous folksongs showing that no oppressor has been able to alter the Latvian way of life, his character and his eagerness to live always fighting and hoping for a better and brighter future.

We are thankful to the University of Washington School of Music for sponsoring our Song Festival and hope that every one of you will enjoy listening to our music as we will in bringing it to you.

THE WEST COAST LATVIAN  
SONG FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

## PROGRAM

Welcoming Address ..... PETERIS PETERSONS  
President of the West Coast  
Latvian Song Festival Committee

Opening Address ..... PROF. DR. ARNOLDS SPEKKE  
Latvian Envoy to the United States

AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

LATVIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

PETERIS PETERSONS, Conductor

### I

#### CHORUS

1. The 19th Psalm of David ..... E. Melngailis
2. Castle of Light (Gaismas Pils) ..... J. Vitols  
PETERIS GALINS, Conductor
3. In Days of Yore (Senatne) ..... E. Melngailis
4. King's Daughter (Karalmeita) ..... J. Vitols  
ARVIDS GRANTS, Conductor
5. To Our Fatherland, Cantata (Tevijai) ..... A. Jurjans  
Soloist IDA TRAPANS, Soprano  
At the Piano VALFRIDS LAPSE  
VALDEMARS OZOLINS, Conductor

### II

#### MALE CHORUS "KRIVS"

6. Come Shoulder to Shoulder (Surp brali) ..... A. Kalnins
7. Imanta ..... O. Sepskis
8. You Are Like a Star (Mirdzi ka zvaigzne) ..... E. Darzins  
LEONARDS BERZINS, Conductor

#### CHORUS

9. Voices (Balsis) ..... J. Norvilis
10. Childhood (Bernudienas) ..... V. Ozolins  
VALDEMARS OZOLINS, Conductor
11. When Moonlight Shimmers (Meness starus stigo) ..... E. Darzins
12. Majestic Mountain "Gaisins" (Birzem rotats) ..... V. Darzins  
ARVIDS GRANTS, Conductor

### III

#### CHORUS

13. At Sunset (Noriet saule vakara) ..... J. Norvilis
14. Wooing Song (Svagera meitina) ..... V. Darzins  
ARVIDS GRANTS, Conductor
15. Lamentation (Kas tie tadi, kas dziedaja) ..... J. Graubins
16. Bethrothal Song (Tautiesami roku devu) ..... A. Jurjans
17. Ligo Song (Ligo dziesma) ..... J. Kalnins  
PETERIS GALINS, Conductor

### 1. THE 19TH PSALM OF DAVID

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun. Affirm the Lord's spirit and praise his eternal strength. Amen.

### 2. GAISMAS PILS

Is a song telling a story about a mystic mountain upon which, a long time ago, stood a castle of Light. When enemies overran and enslaved the people, the castle disappeared. It was believed that an offering to the ancient gods would help to reveal the magic word which could make the castle reappear. Youthful warriors discovered the long forgotten word and the castle rose, casting its light upon the people.

### 3. SENATNE

In its content is very similar to the previous selection. Everything is harmonious and people are celebrating the Ligo festival, but the gayity is surrounded by suppressed feelings. Long after sundown people slave for their oppressors singing songs of lamentation. They sharpen their swords and revolt against their rulers. If the war can be won, the sun will again shine upon them in its multicolored brightness.

### 4. KARALMEITA

On that awesome night when blood flowed in rivers, beautiful Karalmeita sank with her castle. In those unknown depths she has been sitting and spinning now for 600 years. At her feet a black dog lies, suddenly growls, lifts his head sensing the blood of the coming uprising.

On this awesome day the blood again will flow in rivers and Karalmeita and her castle will reappear. She will no longer spin in gloom, but weave the threads of truth and light which will comfort all those who have suffered in sorrow.

### 5. TEVIJAI

I) To thee, Dear Fatherland, let our songs resound. You have been the resting place of our forefathers and the cradle of our mothers. Let them echo in peace and tranquility; let them drift upward to God's merciful Kingdom, for He is your Saviour in want and in sorrow. To thee, Dear Fatherland, let our songs resound.

II) Solo

III) To thee, Dear Fatherland, let our songs resound. Glory to you we will sing forever and ever.

### 6. SURP BRALI

The sun has hidden its face and we are left in cold and darkness. In vain we are praying for light and warmth, and tears on our cheeks are frozen. Come shoulder to shoulder! We are young—our blood is flowing in strength. We'll ignite the sun with our soul's embers. Our country will flourish again and our songs will soar afor.

### 7. IMANTA

Is a myth about a bewitched heroic giant who is buried beneath a mountain enveloped in haze. He is patiently waiting for the day when the ancient gods will break his enchanted spell. He will rise again from his deep sleep and will raise his shiny sword high above the mountain, vanquishing all Evil.

### 8. MIRDZI KA ZVAIGZNE

Is a highly romantic song depicting the beauty of a woman.

Your eyes glisten like a star and your appearance enchants me. Come with me and enjoy the dawning day, the beauty of the sea bathing in the moonlight.

### 9. BALSIS

This song is a musical impression of a morning.

A man is listening to the sounds of a dawning day. Larks and sheppards sing. Their voices echo through groves, carry through woods to greet the early risers.

### 10. BERNUDIENAS

The first breezes of spring remind me of my childhood. Winding their way through melting snow, brooks murmur merrily, and above the returning birds playfully chatter. I feel like in my childhood days. My body is strong, my heart is light. What joy I find in love, work and life.

11. MENESS STARUS STIGO

When moonlight shimmers on deep clear waters, enchanted voices beckon me. Come sail away with me. I know a land of happiness where there is eternal love, where daily longings do not exist, where happiness forever reigns.

12. BIRZEM ROTATS

The majestic mountain "Gaisins" glistens in the silvery sunlight. Dear Latvia, if only you could be as majestic and bright as the mountain. Even if the sky were to lose its brightness, and hills and valleys were to turn in dust, our love for you, Latvia, would never fade. Dear Fatherland, if only you could be that bright, majestic and beautiful.

13. NORIET SAULE VAKARA

The sunset casts its light upon the treetops and drenches every bough and bush in goldlike splendor.

14. SVAGERA MEITINA

A young man harnesses his team to bid for the hand of a beautiful light-haired maiden. If her parents don't consent he will take her anyway.

15. KAS TIE TADE, KAS DZIEDAJA

Is a folksong reflecting the want and hardships of enslaved people. Songs of lamentation resound deep in the night praying for the moon and stars to cast their soothing light upon them, and be their guide in despair and everlasting darkness.

16. TAUTIESAMI ROKU DEVU

When I was old enough to wed my dowry was full of songs. I'll sing them one by one if life will be happy and gay. If cloudy days will come my songs will be left alone.

17. LIGO DZIESMA

Is a medley of songs sung on St. Johns Eve. These songs are jubilant and gay in nature, because St. John was believed to be the god of richness and fulfillment. Young and old await St. John's arrival and joy and gayity along with jubilant Ligo songs echo throughout the night.