

*Latvian
Song Festival*



PORTLAND, OREGON

July 2, 3, 4, 5, 1965

The Festival Calendar of Events

Friday, July 2, 7:00 P.M.

Lloyd Center Auditorium

The Opening of the Festival

PAINTING EXHIBITION

Open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. July 3 and 4

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. July 5

Saturday, July 3, 4:00 P.M.

Benson High School Auditorium

MEMORIAL CONCERT

commemorating Volfgangs Darzins, a distinguished Latvian composer and former professor at the School of Music, University of Washington.

Tickets at \$3.00, \$2.50, \$2.00

Saturday, July 3, 8:30 P.M.

Benson High School Auditorium

LATVIAN FOLK DANCES AND SONGS

featuring the dance ensemble "Perkonitis" in distinctive national costumes.

Tickets at \$3.00, \$2.50, \$2.00

Sunday, July 4, 3:30 P.M.

Procession of the choruses to the Public Auditorium

4:00 P.M. at the Public Auditorium

THE GRAND CONCERT

presenting 15 choruses and a symphony orchestra conducted by B. Skulte, A. Berkis, P. Galins and L. Berzins. Approximately 350 singers in national costumes will participate in a program featuring folk songs, original songs and cantatas.

Tickets at \$4.00, \$3.50, \$2.50, \$2.00

Additional events include religious services, a religious concert, performance of a play, a writers' session and the Festival Ball.

The Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibit, featuring the striking works of the late Stefans Bercs, will be shown at the conference rooms on the second floor of the Sheraton Hotel. No admission charge.

Tickets for the events Are Now Available
Please Send a Check or Money Order to

"Latvian Song Festival 1965"

MR. V. BRUNINS

2007 N.E. 25th St., Portland, Ore. 97212 • Phone 287-8616

The Meaning of the Song Festival

The Latvian nation has endured foreign domination for more than seven centuries. Yet its people preserved a distinct language and folklore. The quality of the cultural heritage can be only experienced; it cannot be fully communicated. But the sheer magnitude of it — 957,000 folk songs and almost 8,000 folk tales — surpasses the comparable folklore of many large nations. Even today folk melodies and dances, native costumes, traditional feasts and observances attest to the remarkable historical continuity with an ancient way of life.

The first Song Festival was celebrated in 1873, nearly a century ago. At that time Latvia was under the domination of the Russian Empire. The multitudes of people gathered at the festival began to sense, perhaps for the first time, a new meaning in the ancient songs — the distant promise of independence. In subsequent years, as the spiritual tension grew, the Festivals came to embody the true ethos of the nation. The "Castle of Light," a new choral, symbolizing the vision of freedom, was recited more frequently than any other song.

Today Latvia, again a conquered land, must endure the harsh rule of Communism. For that reason, the songs heard at the Festival in Portland will carry echoes of special poignancy. Perhaps the "Castle of Light" will become a beacon, once more, of man's hope for a rebirth of freedom everywhere.

Latvia

Latvia compares to West Virginia in geographical size and population. It is located on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea, surrounded by Estonia to the North, Lithuania to the South, and the U.S.S.R. to the East.

From the 13th century on, Latvia became a central battlefield in the incessant struggle between the Slavic East and the Teutonic West. Finally, in the wake of World War I, the Baltic peoples broke free from foreign domination. The independent Republic of Latvia was established in 1918. In the following two decades, the small nation achieved remarkable economic and social progress. In 1940 the Baltic territories, including Latvia, were seized by Soviet Russia; the path of the invading armies was strewn, as usual, with broken treaties and promises. Thousands perished during the occupation; in the first year alone, about 33,000 (out of a population of 2 million) were forcibly deported to Siberia. When the Soviets, once again, invaded the country in 1944, approximately 150,000 Latvians fled into exile.

A large number eventually found a new home in America. Today, some 6,000 Latvians reside in the Western United States. They have found diverse occupations: there are Latvian doctors, scientists, engineers, industrial workers, students and members of the Armed Forces. As for contributions to the realm of art and beauty, the Song Festival will, hopefully, serve as one example. To cite a more decisive one: a Latvian girl was chosen as Miss U.S.A. in 1963!



LATVIA'S geographical relation
to other European countries.



>> MARGERS ŠĒFERS <<

LP2018.563