



Latvian folk dances fall in two main groups. The first group embraces the few remaining ritualistic dances that portray the important events in mans life, or the seasons of nature. The second group, the more popular one, stresses the joy of pure movement, unhindered by symbolism. About one third of these dances are for couples who usually form a single circle. Group dances include up to sixteen couples. The dominant formation is a group of four or eight couples - the square. Most figures are a variation of the circle, with hands joined. Reeling is added for more elaborate and difficult patterns. Young people of Latvian origin are attracted to the various dance groups in increasing numbers. Latvian folk dance exerts a strong binding force on the young...



>> MARGERS ŠĒFERS <<

6. Latvian Song Festival in Canada and World Days

June 24. to July 4.
Toronto,
Canada



Main Festival Events

OPENING CEREMONIES AND CONCERT

Sunday, June 27, 5.p.m, ST. LAWRENCE CENTRE
Renown Canadian-Latvian pianist Arturs Ozolins, Toronto Latvian choir Daina, women's choir Zile and men's ensemble Kalvis.
Tickets : \$ 4.00

LATVIAN FOLK DANCE SPECIAL

Monday, June 28, 7. pm. Bickford Park High School.

Latvian folk dance groups from Canberra and Sidney, Australia.

\$ 5.00/ \$ 4.00

SYMPHONIC CONCERT

Wednesday, June 30, 8.p.m, Massey Hall.

Featuring Festival orchestra (members of the Toronto Symphony) under the direction of Professor Alfred Strombergs, University of Alberta; performing works by Wihtol, Skulte and Kenins, whose 5th Symphony, commissioned through a Canada Council grant, will be performed in world premiere. Soloist in Kenins Violin Concerto will be Rasma Lielmane (Mexico City), a winner of the recent Montreal International Competition.

\$ 8.00/7.00/5.00

LATVIAN FOLK DANCE COMPETITION

Thursday, July 1, 12.noon, Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel.

Latvian folk dance groups from Canada, USA, Europe and Australia compete for top honors.
\$ 3.00

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Thursday, July 1, 8.p.m, St. Lawrence Centre Theatre.

Commissioned works by Jerums, Kalnins and Sturms will be heard in first performance, as well as compositions by Darzins and Kenins. Soloists include Rasma Lielmane, violin; Ileana Peterson, mezzo-soprano, Royal Opera House, Stockholm; Andrejs Jansons, oboe, New York; and pianists Ilze Didrichsone, Marina Baltere, and Anda Baumane.

\$ 7.00/5.00

CONCERT BY YOUNG ARTISTS

Friday, July 2, 2.p.m, St. Lawrence Centre. Young Latvian artists perform vocal and instrumental music; winners of final competitions take part.

\$ 5.00/4.00



Rasma Lielmane

June 30.

CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

Friday, July 2, 8.p.m, Yorkminster Baptist Church.

Featuring 300 singers from Canada and the USA under the direction of V.Bastiks (Phila.) V.Ciemins (Cleveland) and A.Purvs (Toronto), assisted by organist A.Rundans and a string orchestra.

\$ 7.00

LATVIAN THEATRE

Tuesday, June 29, 8.p.m; Thursday, July 1, 3.p.m; Saturday, July 3, 12.noon, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, CNE Grounds.

The Witch of Riga, by J.Rainis (in Latvian)
Cast of 80, colourful production.

\$ 8.00/7.00/5.00

GRAND PERFORMANCE OF LATVIAN FOLK DANCES

Saturday, July 3, 4.p.m, Maple Leaf Gardens
40 dance groups with 1,100 dancers, orchestra.
\$ 7.00/6.00/4.00

FESTIVAL BALL

Saturday, July 3, 8.p.m, Four Seasons Sheraton.
\$ 8.00

SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, July 4, 12.noon, Four Seasons Sheraton. Children from various Latvian schools in Canada and USA perform traditional Latvian songs.

\$ 3.00

THE FESTIVAL CONCERT

Sunday, July 4, 4.p.m, Maple Leaf Gardens. Featuring combined choirs of more than 1,100 singers from Canada, USA, Europe and Australia. Conductors: E.Brusubardis (Milwaukee), J.Baruss (Toronto), A.Jerums (London, England), A.Purvs (Toronto), and J.Kalnins (Fredericton), assisted by I.Peterson, mezzo-soprano, and the Festival orchestra.

\$ 8.00/7.00/5.00/4.00

Information



FESTIVAL HEADQUARTERS :
Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel,
123 Queen Street, Toronto, Ontario.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES :
Latvian(Toronto) Credit Union,
491 College Street, Toronto, Ontario.

INFORMATION :
Mr. G.Gubins,
55 Pine Crest Road,
Toronto, M6P 3G6 , Ont.
767 - I398

Other Events

EXHIBITIONS :

PAINTINGS, SCULPTURES

By contemporary Latvian artists from Canada, USA, Europe and Australia.
Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel,
June 27, 7.pm to July 4, 12 noon.

LATVIAN HANDICRAFTS, CREATIVE ARTS

Pottery, weaving, silver, amber.
Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel,
July 1, 12.noon to July 4, 12. noon.

LATVIAN STAMPS, MONEY, COINS

Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel,
July 1, 12.noon to July 4, 12.noon.

SPORTS EVENTS :

LATVIAN TEAMS FROM CANADA VS USA

Volleyball, basketball
Saturday, July 3, 9.30 am, Ryerson Poly-technical Institute, Gould Street.

CHURCH SERVICES :

EUCUMENICAL SERVICE

Tuesday, July 1, 10.am, St.Pauls Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St., E.

CONFERENCES :

WORLD FEDERATION OF FREE LATVIANS

Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel
Policy meetings, committee meetings, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS :

Many other gatherings, meetings for private organizations, clubs, fraternities, professional associations etc., etc.

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Photo J. Ligers



Hon.Consul of Latvia Dr.E.Upenieks

LATVIA

Latvia, one of the three Baltic States, is situated on the Eastern shores of the Baltic Sea. Latvia is on the same latitude as James Bay but its climate is similar to that of Southern Ontario. RIGA, Latvias capital, was founded in 1201.

Latvia, because of its strategic location, has been repeatedly overrun by its big neighbours. For over 7 centuries it was dominated in turn by Vikings, German Teutonic knights, Swedes, Poles and Russians. Latvians, who had settled there about 4000 years ago, however, retained their national identity, language and culture. Latvians belong to the Baltic branch of the Indo/European family.

Hundreds of years of foreign domination ended in 1918, when Latvia became independent, after a long and bitter war of liberation against the former occupants the Germans and the Russians. The 2 million Latvians lost their independence 20 short years later in 1940, as a result of secret German-Russian deal of 1939. USSR annexed Latvia in 1940. Nazi Germany invaded Latvia during WW II. Soviet Union returned in 1945. Latvia today is virtually a province of the USSR. As a direct result of Soviet deportations, population exchanges, genocide and banishment to Siberia, native Latvians have been reduced to less than 54% of total population. This planned policy is to continue. Latvians have been denied the basic human rights: freedom of movement, speech, assembly and worship in their own native country! Western countries, including Canada, do not recognize Soviet occupation of Latvia.



Songs

Folksongs form one of the richest treasures of Latvian heritage, tracing the life and times of Latvians through the centuries. Folksongs keep Latvians together in the free world. Folksongs are sung in protest in Soviet occupied Latvia... The majority of Latvian folk songs originated in the 13th & 16th centuries. The first recorded song dates back to 1632. The meter and style of some suggest even earlier origins. At the turn of the 20th century 60,000 original songs had been collected with approximately 775,000 noted variations and texts... Latvian folk songs "DAINAS" are lyrical and full of sympathy for fellow humans - women having been the principal creators. The surviving lyrical, four line verses created by the people reflect the often subdued nations life through the ages. Latvian folk songs cover birth, childhood, love, marriage, and finally death. Almost half of the compiled songs are devoted to courting and marriage. Other popular topics are the changing seasons, holidays and festivities. Specially brilliant are the songs celebrating the ancient mid-summers festival John's Day (24th June). Many songs deal with daily life in the fields, pastures and around the home. A recurring theme in others - compassion for people subjugated by cruel masters... Another popular theme - ancient religious life and beliefs concerning life after death.

Dances

Folk dances form an important part of Latvian cultural heritage. Though not as temperamental and spectacular as other national dances, they reflect the Northern character rather well. The dignity and relative slowness of the Latvian dances does not deprive them of their cheerfulness and playfulness. The small and light dance steps are much admired by the youthful dancers of Latvian origin, even in this day of fast beat and rythm...