

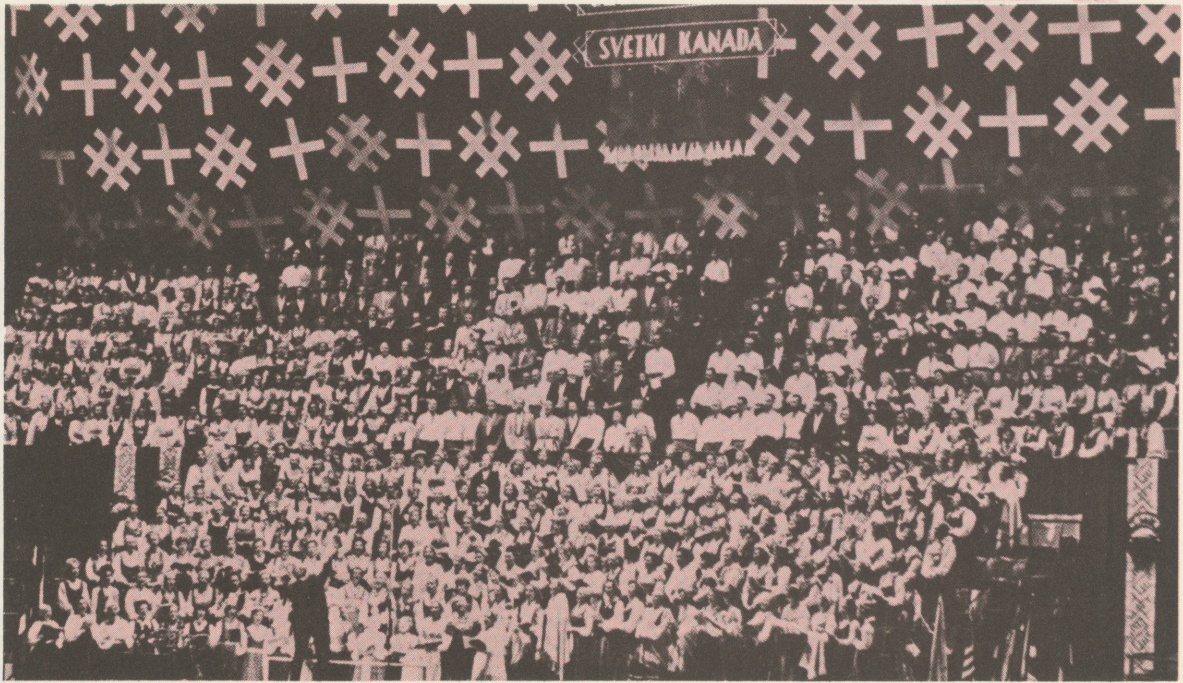
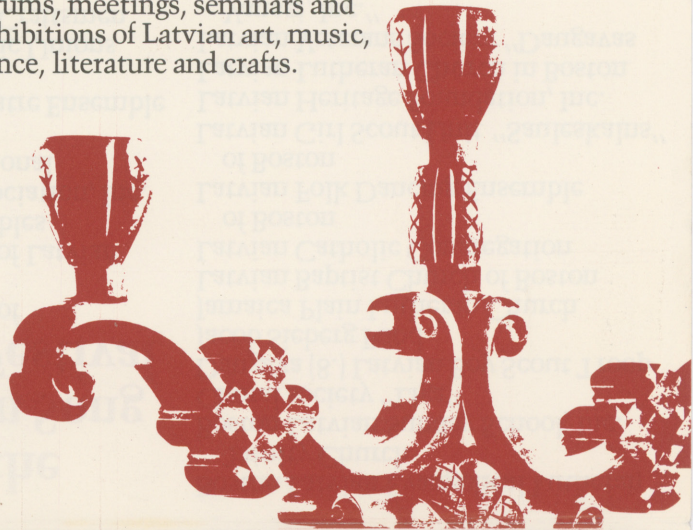
# Events Scheduled For The Sixth Latvian Song and Cultural Festival in Boston, June 30 to July 4, 1978

1. Grand Choral Concert, 1500 singers participating.
2. Folk Dancing Exhibition, 1200 dancers participating.
3. Symphonic concert, including new symphonic works.
4. Concert of Sacred music, Oratorio for chorus, orchestra and organ. New work commissioned for 1978 Festival.

5. Concert of New Works, choral, instrumental and small ensembles.
6. Painting and Fine Arts Exhibition.
7. Crafts Exhibition, sculpture, woodwork, ceramic, jewelry, leather, weaving and other traditional folk art.
8. Philatelic and Numismatic Exhibition.
9. Fairy Tale Operetta, "Spriditis," New work commissioned for 1978 Festival. Children's performance.
10. Grand Theatre, The American Latvian Theatre Ensemble of Boston will present one of Latvia's favorite traditional musical comedies.
11. Choreography competition, new dances based on traditional folk themes.

12. Literary reading, current prose and poetry read by authors.
13. Athletic competitions, Basketball and volleyball all-star games.

Various independent concerts, forums, meetings, seminars and exhibitions of Latvian art, music, dance, literature and crafts.



## Latvian Song Festival, Inc.

Latvian Song Festival, Inc. is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to sponsor the Sixth Latvian Song and Cultural Festival in the U.S.A., to preserve the Latvian cultural heritage, to foster new creations in the cultural fields and to obtain funds or income for charitable purposes in connection therewith.

Latvian Song Festival, Inc. is a cultural non-profit organization and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt organization. All grants, donations and contributions to Latvian Song Festival, Inc. are tax deductible.



**Latvian Song Festival, Inc.**

John Bibelnieks, Festival Chairman  
14 Brook St., Sherborn, Mass. 01770



## The Sixth Latvian Song and Cultural Festival. Boston, June 30 to July 4, 1978

3200  
781.16x5-4





## The Latvian Song Festival Tradition

Latvians have written their 4000 year history in songs. From the cradle to the grave, through feast and famine, peace and war, almost one million Latvian folk songs echo the traditions of a proud past.

It was natural that the first great manifestations of Latvian independence, as well as cultural and national identity, were expressed in a great Song Festival in Riga, the capital of Latvia, in 1873 with 55 choirs and 1000 singers participating.

Subsequent Song Festivals became traditional, interrupted only by wars and revolutions, and were held in 1880, 1888, 1895, 1910, 1926, 1931, 1933 and 1938. The 1938 Festival was the last held in free Latvia with 400 choirs, 17,000 singers and 120,000 spectators participating.

In exile, the Song Festival tradition has been continued and expanded to include the other arts. Folk dancing, symphonic concerts, concerts of sacred music, fine arts exhibitions, crafts exhibitions, operas, musicals, theatres, literary readings and forums are some of the events which now make the traditional Song Festival into a complete cultural event.

The programs are also becoming more and more diversified by the integration of old traditional and modern original works. By encouraging and providing a showplace for new works of exceptional merit, the Song Festival stimulates artistic creation to enrich the cultural heritage of the United States.

Five previous festivals have been held in the United States: 1953 in Chicago, 1958 in New York City and 1963, 1968 and 1973 in Cleveland. The 1973 Centennial Festival brought 82 choirs, 1600 singers, 1200 dancers and over 15,000 visitors to Cleveland.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston will host the Sixth Latvian Song Festival from June 30 to July 4, 1978.



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## Latvia

Latvians settled on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea in a prehistoric era more than 4000 years ago. The Latvian language, one of the oldest languages still spoken today, belongs to the Baltic branch of the Indo-European family of languages related to such languages as Sanskrit and ancient Greek, but distinct from the Germanic or Slavic.

Throughout history, wars and conquerors swept across the amberlands. Latvians have fought against invading Vikings, Danes, crusading armies of the Holy Roman Empire, Germanic Orders, Polish Kings, the Swedish Crown and the Czarist Russian Empire.

Inspired by the American and French Revolutions, a national renaissance swept Europe and the Baltic countries. During this period of awakening, Latvian art, music, literature and language began to grow independent of foreign influences and flourish. In 1873 the tradition of periodic song festivals, unbroken to this day, was established.

Due to the cataclysmic events of the First World War, on November 18, 1918, Latvia declared her independence, became a sovereign republic, was admitted to the League of Nations in 1921 and stood as an equal among the free nations of the world.

Latvia enjoyed only 20 years of independence. During the Second World War, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union.

## Boston's Latvian Community

"Delayed Pilgrims" are what John F. Kennedy called Latvians, saying, "I would have to compare Latvians with evergreens, hardy and full of life, they will always reach upward because they believe in freedom."

Seeking freedom, the first Latvians arrived in Boston in 1689. However, an active Latvian community in Boston evolved only in 1888 with the arrival of Jacob Sieberg. In 1896 there were 295 Latvians in Boston, by 1930 there were 4,357. The large influx of Latvians after W.W. II made Boston a center of Latvian culture and heritage.

More than 50 Latvian-American civic groups and organizations, of Boston, including the Jamaica Plain Lutheran Church (founded in 1899), the Latvian Baptist Church of Boston (1901) and the American National Latvian League (1918) are sponsoring the Sixth Song and Cultural Festival. A coalition of these organizations has elected 27 representatives to serve as trustees of the Song Festival Committee to begin the second century of the Festival tradition in Boston in 1978.

Boston's Latvian community has conscientiously strived to cultivate and nourish their arts and ethnic traditions, has always made an effort to participate in community cultural programs, and made their cultural heritage a part of Boston's. Latvian American artists have exhibited at local galleries, the Museum of Fine

Arts, and worked with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs at City Hall. The Folk Dancing ensembles and choirs have performed at MDC and other city functions. Sunday evenings Bostonians enjoy traditional Latvian folk and classical music on WCRB's "Spotlight on Latvia."

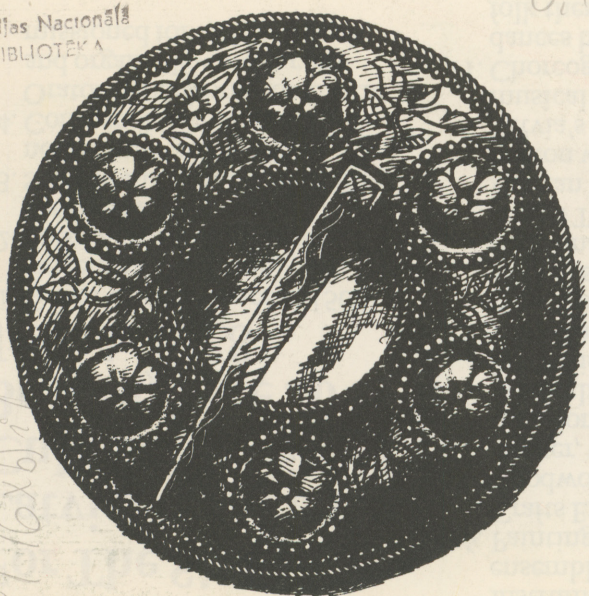


## Sponsors of the Sixth Latvian Song & Cultural Festival

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