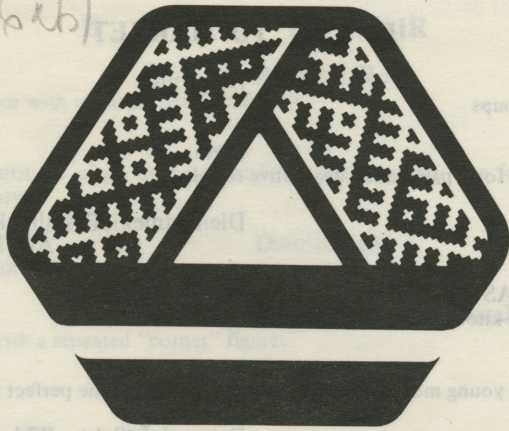


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VIJAS
ONĀLĀ
LIOTĒKA



29TH AUSTRALIAN
LATVIAN ARTS FESTIVAL
SYDNEY 1979

FOLK DANCES

THE MARKET

The theme of this performance, linking the traditional and the choreographed dances, are the activities taking place on market day.

The market was an important event in the lives of farming people, for it was here that they bought and sold their goods; but it was also an important social occasion - no other event gathered so many people in one place, or provided as much excitement and frivolity. It was, of course, an excellent opportunity for young people to meet, flirt and look for a prospective wife or husband.

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I TO MARKET

NARRATOR

Introduction of the groups

All groups

MUŠKADRILIS

A quadrille-type dance for 8 pairs, using decorative towels.

Rota

SĪKAIS DANCIS

The small dance.

Dienvidnieki, Pastalnieki, Senatne

LIELĀS SUDMALAS

A variation on the best-known Latvian traditional dance - The Windmill.

Mazais Auseklītis

NARRATOR

On the way to market, young men and women anticipate meeting the perfect partner.

RAIBIE CIMDI

A dance for 3 couples - the girls make a gift of the first mittens they have knitted.

Daugavieši/Sakta, Pērkonītis

MAZA, MAZA MEITENĪTE

A young man tries to meet a pretty girl.

Ritenītis

SAULES ROTALA

A circle dance for 4 couples.

Auseklītis, Senatne, Sprīdītis

NOSKATĪJU ZELTENĪTI

It is difficult to choose one from so many.

Rota

SAULES DEJA

A dance for 4 couples.

Auseklītis, Mazais Auseklītis, Sprīdītis

NARRATOR

Riding a spirited, well-groomed horse to the fair impresses the girls.

KUMELIŅI, KUMELIŅI

To the amusement of a group of girls, a young man loses his hat when his pony stumbles.

Daugavieši/Sakta

JANDĀLS

A fast dance for 4 couples in which the girls whirl around each boy in turn.

Jautrais pāris, Ritenītis, Sprigulītis

JANDĀLIŅŠ
GRIBAM ZINĀT

Two traditional dance-games.

Sydney Latvian Primary School children

NARRATOR

On the way to market the young people naturally congregate at the inn, where there is music, singing and dancing.

AČKUPS

One of the oldest traditional Latvian dances.

Daugavieši/Sakta, Sprigulītis

TAUTAS KADRILĀ

A quadrille-type dance for 8 couples depicting meeting and greeting.

Jautrais pāris, Ritenītis

UZ TIRGU

To market!

All groups

II AT THE FAIR

SARABUMBALS

Ritenitis, Rota

An ancient regional dance with unusual steps and figures.

NARRATOR

The fair provides a multitude of goods, both local and exotic, hearty fare for the hungry and cool, foaming ale for the thirsty.

GAILĪTIS UN VISTIŅA

Dienvidnieki

Poultry sellers arrive at the fair.

JAUNAIS STŪRIS

Mazais Auseklītis, Pastalnieki, Sprīdītis

A dance for 4 couples with a repeated "corner" figure.

MĀRTIŅDEJA

Auseklītis

Martin's dance.

ŽOGU DEJA

Daugavieši/Sakta, Rota

The hedge-row - a dance for 8 couples.

KAMOLIŅDEJA

Dienvidnieki, Mazais Auseklītis, Senatne

A traditional dance depicting the winding of wool into a ball from skeins.

ZAGĻU DEJA

Pērkonītis

"The thief" - a variation of a traditional dance.

NARRATOR

The fair is full of such pretty girls

SAULES VIJA

A weave of patterns formed by 64 girls

NARRATOR

Dance, bear, dance!

LĀČĪTIS TIRGŪ

Pastalnieki, Senatne

A dancing bear at the market.

VĀVERPOLKA

Auseklītis, Pērkonītis, Rota

The squirrel polka - a traditional dance for 4 couples.

NARRATOR

The boys boast of their prowess and strength.

PIPARPUIKAS

Sprigulītis

There is opportunity for the younger boys to learn mischief.

VENTIŅU DEJA

Rota

A regional dance for 12 girls and 6 boys.

NARRATOR

Going courting.

LŪRIĶIS

Jautrais pāris, Sprigulītis

A suitor, helped by two friends, searches for the perfect wife. A dance for 18 boys.

ZEMENĪTE

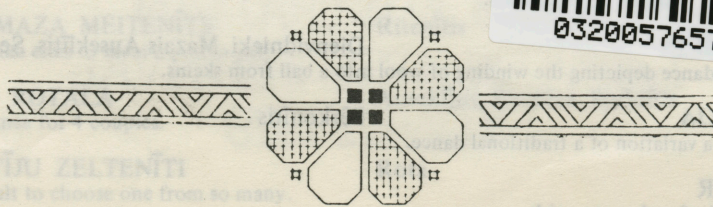
Jautrais pāris

... and finds her.

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The groups participating in this festival (in order of appearance) are:

ROTA from Sydney
PĒRKONĪTIS from Perth
DAUGAVIEŠI/SAKTA from Melbourne
MAZAIS AUSEKLĪTIS from Adelaide
DIENVIDNIEKI from Adelaide
SPRIGULĪTIS from Canberra
PASTALNIEKI from Brisbane
RITENĪTIS from Melbourne
SENATNE from Brisbane
SPRĪDĪTIS from Melbourne
JAUTRAIS PĀRIS from Sydney



LATVIAN FOLK DANCES

Because of its central position on the Baltic Sea and the fertility of the land, Latvia has spent a great part of her history overrun by one or another of her larger and stronger neighbours, yet she has been able to preserve her identity to a remarkable degree.

The characteristics of a people may best be seen in their folk art and dances. In the dances of Latvians we see their basic philosophy; their life's cycle, relationship with Nature, the belief that good triumphs over evil and their pleasure in life. There are dances to celebrate the chief events in man's life, for each part of the year's cycle and the work associated with it, in fact for every aspect of life. The dances are characterized by simplicity, naturalness, courtesy and equality between men and women.

Folk dances are influenced by the environment and the life-style of the people. Dances originating with hunters in a rugged area are fast and spontaneous and feature individual dancers. The Latvians, however, were farmers, so their dances are, on the whole, restrained and disciplined, very often representing some aspect of the farmer's life, but in a symbolic, not a realistic way. They are accompanied by folk songs and so follow a definite plan or pattern, usually with symmetrical, repeated movements. Many are based on the circle, symbolizing the cycle of life. They are group dances with few opportunities for spectacular individual display, yet in their dignity and order we see the simplicity and beauty of the way of life they represent.