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Latvillas Nacional

salviesu biedribas 43rd Australian Latvian Arts Festival BIBLIOTERA Combined Choirs Concert

Thursday, 30 December 1993 at 7.00 pm Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium, 69 Ann St., Brisbane

Choirs represented:

Adelaide Latvian Mixed Choir Brisbane Latvian Mixed Choir Beverina Brisbane Choir Imagen Canberra singers Daugavas Vanagi Adelaide Branch Male Choir Daugava Latvian Chamber Choir Versija Melbourne Latvian Mixed Choir Rota Sydney Latvian Mixed Choir Sydney Latvian Male Choir

> Mezzosoprano Antra Bigača Piano Ingrīda Šakūrova

Programme compiled by Eriks Ozoliņš

Mixed Choirs

Dievs, svētī Latviju!

Kārlis Baumanis (1835—1905)

Latvian Anthem—God Bless Latvia

Written in the latter part of the 19th century as a hymn, it became Latvia's national anthem in 1918. The anthem asks God's blessing for Latvia and a long and happy life for the Latvian people.

Conductor Ēriks Ozoliņš

Dievs, dod mūsu tēvu zemei

Andrejs Jurjāns Andrejs Jurjāns (1856—1922)

God, grant this for our fatherland! A prayer for the wellbeing of Latvia.

Conductor Astra Kronite

Dziesmu gars

Vilis Plūdonis

Ēriks Ozoliņš (1923)

The Spirit of Song

An o'de extolling the power of song to lift the spirit above the woes of the world and enoble it by restoring joy and hope.

Conductor Laurie Gaffney

Kā gulbii

Eduards Veidenbaums

Kārlis Kažocinš (1886—1920)

Like Swans

A mood-poem wishing to fly away with the clouds to sunny lands, but chiding oneself for such frivolity; the lot of mortals is to dwell on the valley of tears. Conductor Vita Timermane

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Celš uz dzimteni

Pēteris Blaus

Jānis Zālītīs (1884—1943)

The road to homeland

A poem from exile. A dream came to me from my homeland and bid me rise and look for the road back. But I know that road so well because it holds all the landmarks and memories in my heart.

Conductor Ingrīda Šakūrova

Zvaigžņu lietus

Elīna Zālīte Leonīds Slaucītāis (1899—1971)

A Star-shower

A lyric description of ecstasy—possibly falling in love. Conductor Marila Svilane

Kā sniegi kalnu galotnēs

Jānis Jaunsudrabinš Pēteris Barisons (1904—1947)

As the snow on mountain tops

As was the fashion of his day, the poet uses the beauty of nature as an allegory for moral and spiritual values. The remote white snow represents goodness and purity and mountaintops are high achievements that blaze bright and visible even when the world darkens into twiliaht.

Conductor Viktors Bendrups

Tālavas taurētājs

Rūdolfs Blaumanis

Raimonds Pauls (1936)

The Sentry of Talava

A ballad depicting the times of early invasions of Latvia. The watchman sits in the highest tree while everyone sleeps. The enemy troops tempt him with gold and fame if he fails to signal, but he is loyal to his kin and trumpets the warning. Arrows speed upward and the lofty tree shudders under the axe. In the ensuing battle the enemy are vanquished, but instead of victory celebrations the fort mourns the hero. Conductor Juris Vaivods

Interval (15 minutes)

Combined Male Choirs

Krāc jūrmalas priedes

Antons Birkerts

Jānis Mediņš (1877—1947)

God grant this for our fast

The seaside pines roar

A mood poem celebrating a stormy sea.

Conductor Juris Vaivods

Aijā

Teodors Tomsons

Bruno Skulte (1905-1976)

Soft Slumber

The poem evokes memories of a distant homeland and past love.

Conductor Vita Timermane

Dainu zeme

Lllija Auza

Bruno Skulte (1905—1976)

Land of ancient songs

A lyric poem using the rhythms and images from dainas to paint an idealised image of ancient Latvia.

Conductor Laurie Gaffney

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Kur tu iesi, jauns puisīti

Tautas dziesma

Jānis Cimze (1824—1881)

Where are you off to, young man?

A courting folksong in which a young man promises his orphan bride not only his wealth, but also his parents.

Conductor Eriks Ozolinš

Puto balta, Daugava

Ilze Kalnāre

Eriks Ozolinš (1923)

Daugava foams white

The thoughts of a young man as he prepares to row across the river to meet his sweetheart.

Saule, pērkons, Daugava

Jānis Rainis

Mārtiņš Brauns (1939)

The Sun, Thunder and Daugava

Originally written as a prologue to an epic play, the poem describes the roles of a personified Sun and Thunder interceding with God to establish Latve, the genetrix of all Latvians on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

This song was a hymn of affirmation of our hopes for freedom when it was first performed in the 1990 Latvian Song Festival. Reinstatement of independence of Latvia was formally declared during the historic events of August 1991.

Manai Dzimtenei

Jānis Peters

Raimonds Pauls (1936)

For my homeland

Written in the early 1980's when openly nationalistic songs were still forbidden, this song acquires defiant strength by the use of words that appear merely poetic on the surface, but carry fervent national symbolism in their subtexts.

> Conductor Daina Jaunbérziņa Piano Ingrīda Šakūrova

> > Interval (15 minutes)

Mixed Choirs

Lakstīgala kroni pina

Tautas dziesma

Arvīds Žilinskis (1905)

The nightingale weaves a song

A young girl is entranced by the nightingale's song and claims that she has grown up to be a singer because she heard the bird in her cradle.

Bēdu, manu lielu bēdu

Tautas dziesma

Valters Kaminskis (1929)

Woe, oh my big woe!

All woes should be buried under a rock and dismissed with a song! Life should be lived to the full-sing while you work and greet the people you meet. Conductor Viktors Bendrups

Meitin' sēde aiz ūdeņa

Tautas dziesma

Ēriks Ozoliņš (1923)

The lass on the other shore

A courting song, where the girl asserts her intent to choose her own husband. Conductor Juris Vaivods

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Upe nesa ozoliņu

Tautas dziesma

Gundars Ģedulis (1952)

The river carries a young oak

The beekeeper's sweetheart mourns a young oak with a hive of bees being swept down the river.

l' saulīte Dievu lūdza

Tautas dziesma

Jānis Norvilis (1906)

Even the Sun prays to God

The Sun watches over orphans and God is ever present in our lives.

Conductor Ingrīda Šakūrova

Kas tie tādi, kas dziedāja Who are they that sing? Tautas dziesma

Jēkabs Graubiņš (1886—1961)

Wars and cruel masters left many orphans to the harsh fate of slavery, but even in the darkest despair, the moon and stars light their way. Folksongs with this theme have sustained Latvians in prisons and exile in this century as much as in the distant

past.

Conductor Vita Timermane

Līgo dziesma

Tautas dziesma

Jānis Kalniņš (1904)

Midsummer night songs

Jānis, God's son is the spirit of summer, of light and growth and at Midsummer night he rides the earth. This is celebrated in continuous dance and songs, many of which have the refrain of "Ligo". This ancient celebration of light and love has remained an important part of Latvian culture to this day.

Conductor Astra Kronite

Lūgšana par tēvu zemi

Leonids Breikšs

Ruta Brože (1953)

Prayer for my fatherland

A cantata for choir, piano and solo voice praying for God's blessing for Latvia.

Conductor Mariia Svilane Soprano solo Antra Bigača Piano Ingrīda Šakūrova

Handing over the Festival flag to the President of the 44th Australian Latvian Arts Festival, Aivars Saulītis

Tev mūžam dzīvot, Latvija

Vilis Plūdonis conductor Ēriks Ozoliņš Jānis Mediņš (1890—1966)

(We invite you to rise and sing with the choir)

Tev mūžam dzīvot, Latvija, Kā saulei, kas mirdz debess klajā! Tu jauna zvaigzne zvaigznājā, Kas uzlēkusi nule tajā!

Tev mūžam dzīvot, Latvija, Kā jūrai, kas tev šalc pie kājām! Pats Dievs sen senis svētīja, Še tavas āres mums par mājām! Tev mūžam dzīvot, Latvija, Kā jūrai, lepni, saulei cēli. Tu mūsu māte dārgajā, Mēs tavas meitas, tavi dēli.

Tev mūžam dzīvot, Latvija,
Tu tēvzeme mums Dieva dota!
Lai latvju tauta vienotā
Aug spēkā, slavā, daiļumā!

