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43rd Australian Latvian Arts Festival 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 *Beverīna*
- Brisbane Choir *Imogen*
- 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 Ingrida Šakūrova

Programme compiled by Ēriks Ozoliņš

Mixed Choirs

Dievs, svētī Latviju! Kārlis Baumanis 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 Kronīte

Dziesmu gars Vilis Plūdonis Ēriks Ozoliņš (1923)

The Spirit of Song

An ode 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 gulbji Eduards Veidenbaums Kārlis Kažociņš (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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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 Ēriks Ozoliņš

Puto balta, Daugava Ilze Kalnāre Ēriks Ozoliņš (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 Latvia, 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 Jaunbērziņa
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

Meitiņ' 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

