

XXVII VISPĀRĒJIE
LATVIEŠU
DZIESMU UN 
XVII DEJU SVĒTKI



A quick guide to
**UPWARD
TOGETHER**
Grand Finale Concert

UPWARD TOGETHER

The 150th anniversary of the first Song Festival takes place in a brand new purpose-built arena called the Silver Grove. Some say that the forest is the best acoustic frame for choral music. Shaped like a hill, it may allude to aspiration, but Latvians know that the first voices were the shepherds who climbed hillocks in the spring to sing their long calls (gaviles).

Upward Together underlines our shared recognition that coming together from all corners and far corners, we delight in the visceral resonance of our voices merging and rising into the heavens as a kind of incantation that benefits each and every soul and lights a future path.

At the same time, it is a clear path from where we came. The Song Festival tradition was the one force, before political action, that moulded and voiced a peoples' desire for self-determination. Having achieved statehood, it helped the nation survive complex times. 150 years is just the beginning, its current strength will ensure continuance into the far, far future.



Part I

WE ARE A PART OF NATURE

1 SVĒTKU FANFARAS (2023)

Rihards Zaļupe
Chief Conductor Jānis Puriņš
Brass Bands

2 PŪT, VĒJIŅI (1973)

Imants Kalniņš, Jānis Raslavs arrangement
Honorary Chief Conductor Haralds Bārzdīņš
Brass Bands

3 AČIKOPS (1883)

Jurjānu Andrejs, Andrejs Cepītis arrangement
Chief Conductor Egons Salmanis
Brass Bands

4 PĀRI LAIKIEM (2021)

Lolita Ritmanis
Chief Conductor Raitis Ašmanis

5 SAULE, SAULE MĒNESTIŅ' (2022)

Jēkabs Jančevskis, folk song
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags, Massed Choir,
Childrens' Choirs, Choirs: *Balsis, Jasmīnas koris, Juventus*, Aleksandrs Špicbergs - soloist,
Jānis Porietis - trumpet, instrumentalists

6 DIEVS, SVĒTĪ LATVIJU!

Baumaņu Kārlis
Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs
Massed Choir
Brass Bands
National Armed Forces Brass Band

FESTIVE FANFARES

Brass bands have always been a part of the Song Festival tradition.

BLOW WIND

will return at the end of the concert but this is the signature soundtrack to one of Latvia most famous films, based on Rainis' play *Pūt vējiņi*, composed by a much-loved cross-over composer.

AČIKOPS DANCE

The most characteristic elements of Latvian folk dances, other than the polka step, are the intricate patterns that the dancers make.

OVER TIME

Lolita Ritmanis is a Grammy-winning Latvian-American composer who lives in California, renown for her work in film and TV soundtracks.

THE SUN AND MOON

Composed for the soundtrack of a film about the very first Song Festival - *The Land that Sings*, it quickly became very popular and earned a role in marking the 150th year of the Song Festival.

GOD BLESS LATVIA

Written and composed by one of the foremost personalities of the national awakening movement, it was sung for the first time in 1873 and became the official Latvian national anthem in 1920.

7 DZIESMAI ŠODIEN LIELA DIENA (1947)

Pēteris Barisons, Arvīds Skalbe
Chief Conductor Agita Rimšēviča
Mixed Choirs

8 RĪTA GAISMĀ (2003)

Valts Pūce
Chief Director Valda Bagāta
Massed Kokle Ensembles

9 MANA DZIESMA (1980)

Juris Karlsons, Fricis Bārda
Chief Conductor Kaspars Ādamsons
Conductors' Choir

10 AR DZIESMU DZĪVĪBĀ (1979)

Pēteris Plakidis, Jānis Peters
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags
Mixed Choirs

11 CIĀNAS BĒRNI (1905)

Emīls Dārziņš, Aspazija
Chief Conductor Mārtiņš Klišāns
Mixed Choirs

12 SAVĀ TAUTĀ (1990)

Pēteris Vasks, Andrejs Eglītis
Chief Conductor Sigvards Kļava
Mixed Choirs

13 DZIESMA DZIMTENEI (1978)

Imants Kalniņš, Ārija Elksne
Chief Conductor Aira Birziņa
Massed Choir

14 BEVERĪNAS DZIEDONIS (1891)

Jāzeps Vītols, Auseklis, Mendelis Bašs arrangement
Chief Conductor Kaspars Ādamsons
Mixed Choirs
National Armed Forces Brass Band

A GREAT DAY FOR SONG

Considered to be the anthem of the song festival movement, Barisons died before he heard his composition performed. Although the text precisely captures the essence of the song festival, it was considered tabu amongst émigrés in the West, due to its ideological references.

MORNING LIGHT

A delicate, intimate instrument, best suited for keeping a shepherd company, the kokle has developed into a genre garnering serious contemporary composition.

MY SONG

Singing your song to the grasses in the fields is equally as important as to white castles in the stars.

WITH A SONG IN LIFE

A nation has a voice, it has a song, it is a fire in one's mouth.

CHILDREN OF ZION

Oh we poor children of Zion, a black veil divides us from our joy. A view of turbulent times by one of Latvia's most influential woman writers, Aspazija.

WITHIN MY PEOPLES

Together with my brothers, sword in hand,
deeply wounded, sweetly healed.

A SONG FOR MY HOMELAND

Ārija Elksne's poem of deep love for her homeland is written entirely from the point of view of a summer meadow.

THE SONGSTER FROM BEVERĪNA

A shield of song saves the nation! The Auseklis poem describing the siege of the Beverīna castle in 1208, becomes the cornerstone of Latvian music. It is Vītols' first choral work and Emīls Dārziņš says "this is what Latvian music should look like!"

Part II

THE SONGS SINGS WITHIN US

15 VAIRĀK NEKĀ (2018)

Jānis Lūsēns, Knuts Skujenieks
Chief Conductor Ilze Valce
Womens' and Mens' Choirs

16 VAKARJUNDA (1934)

Jānis Norvilis, Leonīds Breikšs, Gunārs Ordellovskis
arrangement
Honorary Chief Conductor Arvīds Platpers
Womens' and Mens' Choir
National Armed Forces Brass Band

17 MŪŽAM ZILI IR LATVIJAS KALNI (1909)

Emīlis Dārziņš, words after Kārlis Skalbe
Honorary Chief Conductor Jēkabs Ozoliņš
Mens' choirs

18 LATGALĒ (1960)

Aldonis Kalniņš, Skaidrīte Kaldupe
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags
Womens' Choirs

19 ROZĒM KAISU ISTABIŅU (1973)

Folk song, Oļģerts Grāvītis arrangement
Chief Conductor Māra Marnauza
Womens' Choirs

20 DZIED, MĀSIŅA, TU PRET MANI (1992)

Folk song, Romualds Jermaks arrangement
Chief Conductor Ilze Valce
Womens' Choirs

MORE THAN

Blow wind, take me back to my homeland
where I can rise up, rise up, and talk to
my people.

THE LAST POST

FOREVER BLUE ARE LATVIJA'S HILLS

Spirits of the ancestors, weeping kokles, broken
sacrificial vessels, ancient gods, wrapped in the mists
of the river of destiny, Daugava.

IN LATGALE

Golden sun, blue flax flowers, blue forests, white birch
groves and shimmering lakes are the essence of Latgale.

SCATTERING ROSES ABOUT MY ROOM

I ran when I heard a suitor negotiating. Make your bids
for the cat, I'm no baby bird that can be taken from
a branch and bargained for!!

SISTERS SINGING

across hills and dales, echoing and harmonizing. Such
were their voices they could be heard across countries.

21 MŪŽU MŪŽOS BŪS DZIESMA (1972)

Valters Kaminskis, Imants Ziedonis
Chief Conductor Ivars Cinkuss
Vīru kori

22 KUR TU BIJI, BĀLELIŅI (1983)

Selga Mence, Agris Pilsums
Chief Conductor Aira Birziņa
Womens' Choirs
Marina Rebeka - soloist
Mārtiņš Zilberts, Valdis Zilveris - Keyboards

23 BĀRENĪTES SLAVINĀŠANA (1911)

Folk song, Emīlis Melngailis arrangement
Chief Conductor Māra Marnauza
Womens' and Mens' Choirs

FOREVER AND EVER THERE WILL BE SONG,

forever and ever beer will taste grand, forever and ever
there will be a song festival and forever a girl will come
clad in white socks.

WHERE WERE YOU BROTHER DEAR?

I was planting rye, cutting hay, drinking in the pub so I
didn't see you, while you were wearing your white socks,
while you were crying.

A SONG FOR THE HONOUR OF THE ORPHAN GIRL

A large section of Latvian folk songs are devoted to
the fate of orphans. These songs, often mournful, tend
to be especially poignant and/or poetic. This one has
an honourable ending.



Part III

THE HISTORIC REGIONS OF LATVIA
LEAVE AN IMPRINT ON THE
PERSONALITIES, TASTES, AND
TRADITIONS OF ITS INDEIGENOUS
PEOPLES, THEIR MUSIC, THEIR
AESTHETIC.

VIDZEME

24 VALBERĢU REILENDERS

Folk music

Sergejs Austris Unvers arrangement

Dace Adviljone choreography

Lauma Bērza - soloist

Līga Broduža - bandoneon

Chief Director Dace Adviljone

Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs

Mid-age dance groups (D group)

National Armed Forces Brass Band

THE REILENDER DANCE FROM VALBERĢI

LATGALE

25 ZĪDI, ZĪDI, RUDZU VUORPA (2022)

Folk music, Sergejs Austris Unvers arrangement,

Lilija Lipora choreography

Chief Director Ilze Mažāne, Assistant Lilija Lipora

Asnāte Rancāne, Aīda Rancāne, Aurēlija Rancāne -

voices, Ilmārs Pumpurs - cimbalon

Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs

Seniors' dance ensembles (F group)

National Armed Forces Brass Band

BLOSSOMING CORNFLOWER



SĒLIJA

26 ROTAĻA NO SUBATES (2022)

Folk music, Sergejs Austris Univers arrangement
Baiba Šteina choreography
Ethnographic singing ensemble *Saucējas*
Ieva Nīmane, Kate Slišāne - recorder
Laura Līcīte - soloist

Chief Director Baiba Šteina
Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs
3 and 4th grade childrens' dance groups
National Armed Forces Brass Band

ZEMGALE

27 ŽANDARIŅŠ (2022)

Iecava Cultural Centre Folklore Group *Tarkšķi*
Velta Leja, Laimdota Šmēdiņa - violin

Chief Director Dagmāra Bārbale
Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs
Mid-age dance groups (D group)
National Armed Forces Brass Band

KURZEME

28 DIŽAIS DANCIS (2022)

Folk music, Sergejs Austris Univers arrangement,
Taiga Ludborža choreography
Solveiga Kūlaine, Sandijs Kūlainis,
Emīlija Kūlaine, Katrīna Kūlaine,
Elza Gudermane - soloists
Alsunga Folklore Group *Suitu dādenieki*

Chief Director Taiga Ludborža
Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs
Mid-age dance groups (D group)
National Armed Forces Brass Band

A GAME FROM SUBATE

ŽANDARIŅŠ

THE GRAND DANCE

29 SKAISTA MANA TĒVU ZEME (2022)

Chief Director Dagmāra Bārbale

Chief Conductor Guntis Kumačevs

Youth dance groups (A group)

Balsis, Jasmīnas koris, Juventus choirs and

Massed Choir

Elīna Seile - soloist

Edgars Kārklis - bagpipes

National Armed Forces Brass Band

30 MAZS BIJ' TĒVA NOVADINIS (1957)

Folk song, Helmers Pavasars arrangement

Honorary Chief Conductor Lilija Zobens

Massed Choir

31 LOKATIESI, MEŽU GALI (1913)

Folk song, Emīlis Melngailis arrangement

Honorary Chief Conductor Juris Kļaviņš

Massed Choir

32 KRAUKLĪT'S SĒŽ OZOLĀ (1875)

Folk song, Jānis Cimze arrangement

Honorary Chief Conductor Jānis Erenštreits

Mixed choirs

THE LAND OF MY FATHERS IS BEAUTIFUL

A poetic ode to the fatherland includes a warning: I have beat a copper shield, all around my fatherland. He who seeks to enter it, had better start to forge a sword!

MY FATHER'S LAND WAS SMALLISH

yet it was a wonderful place to live! There's space for the rabbit to bound, the robin to sing, the spring to flow, the ploughman to plough. There's bread and water for all, all's well with the world.

TREE TOPS SWAYING IN THE WIND

Melngailis was a powerful personality. In addition to collecting folk songs, he fought for authors' rights, free rail transport for singers and promoted Latvian culture in opposition to the prevailing German milieu. Opposed to the shallowness of "sentimental cosmopolitanism", he was a firm believer in the idea that "ancient pearls" were part of living culture rather than mere heritage.

THE RAVEN SITS IN THE OAK TREE

holding a golden kokle. He's the only one who sees where they have taken our sister. They've taken our sister to a life in rich Kurzeme.

Part IV

TWO HANDS HOLD THOUSANDS OF VOICES

33 IK RUDENI VALODIŅA (2003)

Valts Pūce, Inese Zandere poem
Gunta Skuja choreography

Chief Conductor Ints Teterovskis
Chief Director Gunta Skuja
Mixed choirs
Mid-age dance groups (D group)
Elīna Seile, Alise Baumane, Kamila Siliņa - soloists
Edgars Kārklis, Kaspars Bārbals - bagpipes
Raimonds Gulbis - bassoon
Artis Orubs, percussion

34 ES IZJĀJU PRŪŠU ZEMI (2000)

Folk music, Ainārs Mielavs, Kaspars Putniņš,
Andris Alviķis arrangement, Edgars Linde choral
arrangement
Jānis Ērglis choreography

Chief Conductor Ints Teterovskis
Chief Director Jānis Ērglis
Balsis, Jasmīnas koris, Juventus choirs
Youth dance groups (A group)
Instrumentalists

35 SASALA JŪRĪŅA (2003)

Folk song, Raimonds Pauls arrangement
Jānis Purviņš choreography

Chief Conductor Gints Ceplenieks
Chief Director Jānis Purviņš
Mixed Choirs
Youth dance groups (A group)
Ance Krauze - soloist

AUTUMN

One of Latvija's most popular writers, Zandere believes that the Song Festival is a powerful way of accessing poetry in the modern world. Here you can sing it, or even dance it, together with its emotional charge. An evocative poem, it balances between a magical spell and an ode to the season.

I WENT A-RIDING PRUSSIA WAY

Who knows the chemistry of a trend? For some inexplicable reason, this song became a dance-meme! Latvian dance groups all over the world filmed themselves performing this dance in fields, on beaches and as flash mobs in shopping centres. A young man goes to explore the world, yet resists the temptations of the Prussian girls, remaining true to his love back home in Kurzeme.

THE SEA FROZE OVER

When the sea freezes over, it's easier to travel to the girls on the amber shores. The loveliest girls live on the amber shores, sought by nobles and soldiers alike. My brother brought home a wife from the amber shores. They know how to build bridges of flowers, make amber shirts and knit amber gloves.

36 ES MĀĢĒJU DANCI VEST (1963)

Folk music, Gunārs Ordelovskis arrangement
Uldis Žagata choreography

Chief Conductor Mārtiņš Klišāns
Honorary Chief Conductor Ingrīda Edīte Saulīte
Chief Director Iveta Pētersonē-Lazdāne
Balsis, Jasmīnas koris, Juventus choirs
Childrens', Youth, Mid-age, Seniors' dance groups
Instrumentalists

37 JĀŅU DZIESMA (2002)

Artūrs Maskats, folk song
Chief Conductor Gints Ceplenieks
Mixed Choirs
Mārtiņš Miļevskis, timpani

38 AIZ DAUGAVAS VARA DĀRZS (2014)

Folk music arranged by Electrofolk, Edgars Linde
choir arrangement, Agris Daņiļevičs choreography
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanāgs
Chief Director Iveta Pētersonē-Lazdāne
Balsis, Jasmīnas koris, Juventus choirs
Youth dance ensembles: Dailrade, Rotaļa,
Teiksmā, Vektors
Kristīne Kalniņa, Edgars Kārklis - soloists
Instrumentalists

39 DZIEDOT DZIMU, DZIEDOT AUGU (1932)

Folk song, Alfrēds Kalniņš arrangement
Chief Conductor Ivars Činkuss
Massed Choir

40 SAULE BRIDA RUDZU LAUKU (1999)

Folk song, Ilona Rupaine arrangement
Chief Conductor Agita Rimšēviča
Mixed Choirs
Oļģija Gulbe - soloist
Instrumentalists

I KNEW HOW TO LEAD THE DANCE

A well-known classic from the masters of Latvian
stage dance culture.

MIDSUMMERNIGHT SONG

Maskats captures the joy and lightness of
the celebration yet lets it be known that primitive
forces lurk below the surface.

BEYOND THE DAUGAVA THERE'S THE COPPER GARDEN

As the blacksmith hammers in the sky, embers fall in
the Daugava. He forges a belt for the sons of god and
a crown for the daughter of the sun.

SINGING I WAS BORN, SINGING I GREW

Composed in New York, the song reeks of the composer's
longing for his homeland, to which he returned. An
ode to the beauty and power of song and the place of
singing at the heart of the human condition and the
cycle of life.

THE SUN STRODE THROUGH THE RYE FIELD

in her grey skirts. Carefully, carefully she stepped, not
a petal was disturbed.

41 JĀŅUVAKARS (1926)

Emīls Mēlņgailis, folk song
Chief Conductor Agita Rimšēviča
Massed Choir

42 LEC, SAULĪTE! (2014)

Raimonds Tigulis, Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce
Chief Conductor Māris Sirmāis
Massed Choir
Instrumentalists

43 UZ GAISMU (2022)

Lolita Ritmanis
Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags
Instrumentalists

44 AUGŠUP DŽĪVĪBA SKAN (2021)

Lolita Ritmanis
Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce

Chief Conductor Romāns Vanags
Massed Choir
Instrumentalists

45 RĪTA UN VAKARA DZIESMA (2016)

Raimonds Tiguls, Rasa Bugavičute-Pēce

Chief Conductor Mārtiņš Klišāns
Massed Choir
National Armed Forces Brass Band

46 DVĒSLES DZIESMA

Ēriks Ešenvalds, Anita Kārkiņa,
Vilnis Šmidbergs arrangement for brass bands

Chief Conductor Aira Birziņa
Massed choir
National Armed Forces Brass Band
Agnese Pauniņa, Mārtiņš Klišāns - soloists
Miks Akots - guitar

MIDSUMMER EVENING

After GAISMAS PILS, it is the song most often sung at song festivals. It is renown for eliciting a spontaneous statement of strength, the second such gesture during the 1985 song festival, when it was repeated. It also holds the record for the highest note achieved at a song festival, a second octave B by the sopranos.

RISE UP SUN!

Rise up sun and shine brightly
Adorn each field and farm
Bless our holy land
Rise up sun and shine brightly
Adorn each girl and boy
Unite our Latvian people

TOWARDS THE LIGHT

HJEADING UPWARDS, LIFE RESOUNDS

The rhythm of life spirals upwards.

MORNING AND EVENING SONG

SONG OF THE SOUL

This song was an instant hit due to its sincerity, recognizable melody, major-minor interplay, simple words yet depth of meaning, all the while being quite personable.

THE GOLDEN TREASURY

47 MANAI DZIMTENEI (1972)

Raimonds Pauls, Jānis Peters
Jakovs Raskins arrangement for brass bands
Alfrēds Spura choreography

Chief Conductor Ints Teterovskis
Chief Director Zanda Mūrniece
Massed Choir
Youth dance groups (A group)
National Armed Forces Brass Band
Instrumentalists

48 SAULE, PĒRKONS, DAUGAVA (1988)

Mārtiņš Brauns. Rainis, Jānis Puriņš arrangement
for brass bands

Chief Conductor Sigvards Kļava
Massed Choir
National Armed Forces Brass Band
Instrumentalists

TO MY HOMETLAND

As the most popular Latvian composer, Raimonds Pauls' popular music is still quite multi-layered. Jānis Peters, an equally popular poet, cleverly strings together the themes embodied in *BROKEN PINES* and the *CASTLE OF LIGHT*.

SUN THUNDER DAUGAVA.

Brauns' evocative, sharp, laconic melody is subordinate to the text, another tale of national emergence conquering the odds. Beloved by singers and audiences alike, the song took on a life of its own fuelling a movement to have it replace the national anthem in Latvia and becoming the music to the official song of the Catalan independent movement in 2014.

THE GOLDEN TREASURY

49 GAISMAS PILS (1899)

Jāzepts Vītols, Auseklis
Chief Conductor Māris Sirmais
Massed Choir

THE CASTLE OF LIGHT

was composed at the end of the 19th century when small nations were challenging empires. A kind of creation myth, this is a heroic epos where truth and light rise to overcome the forces of darkness. In 1985, the song was unexpectedly struck from the festival program. Equally unexpectedly, the massed choir called for the conductor Haralds Mednis to come to the podium from the audience. With no rehearsal, the song was performed as a proud and powerful act of rebellion, an early marker of the singing revolution that was to come.

50 PŪT, VĒJINI! (1884)

Folk song, Jurjānu Andrejs arrangement
Massed Choir

BLOW WIND

is a folk song that enjoys the status of an unofficial national anthem that is known the world over and always elicits an emotional response. During the Soviet era it was sung in lieu of the forbidden national anthem. As a collector of folk songs, Jurjānu Andrejs had a deep respect for the authentic voice when making his arrangements. It is always sung by the choir and the audience together.



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