



A General View of the Seventh Song Festival.

Information for Visitors to the Ninth All-Latvian Song Festival

Riga, the capital of Latvia, where on 18th and 19th June of this year the ninth All-Latvian Song Festival is to be held, is in direct communication by rail, sea, and air with all the other countries of Europe, so that the visitor can, with the greatest ease and comfort, attend this great festival of Latvian music and folk art.

The Latvian state railways throughout the whole of Latvia allow foreign visitors attending the Song Festival a reduction of 50%, so that the visitor from abroad may have the opportunity to see at little cost the beauty-spots of Latvia.

The beautiful Riga Seaside (Rīgas Jūrmala), is easily accessible by car from Riga in 20 or 30 minutes. The world-famous sulphur-spring Spa at Ķemeri, with its smart and wonderfully appointed hotel, is also readily accessible — approximately 40 minutes by car.

A well-planned net of railways and other methods of communication make readily accessible the many places worth visiting in beautiful Latvia. All places of interest to the tourist and all resorts are provided with hostels.

On 23rd June, shortly after the All-Latvian Song Festival, the whole Latvian nation will celebrate their traditional Ligo Festival. In this festival all the Latvian people sing the ancient Ligo songs and throughout the length and breadth of the land John's fire will burn on the hills.

The foreign visitor desirous of attaining a deeper knowledge of the folk-life and folk-culture of the Latvians may have his desire gratified if he spends the Ligo Festival in Latvia; he will get an indelible impression of this country and its people.

By announcing their intention beforehand, foreign visitors travelling in groups to the Song Festival will be looked after by a special committee. Excursion parties should apply to the Organisation Committee of the Song Festival, Room 601, Stabu ielā 12, Rīga, Latvia.

Visitors to Latvia will find excellent accommodation in the Riga hotels and in private houses.

A room in a good hotel in Riga costs from lats 3 to lats 6 without board; from lats 6 to lats 10 with board.

In the first-class hotels in Riga a room costs from lats 8 to lats 20 without board; and from lats 10 to lats 30 with board.

The Ķemeri Hotel.



THE 9TH NATIONAL LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL



SONG FESTIVAL IN RIGA

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Singers.

Vija Lāča Latv. PSR
Valsts bibliotēka
71—

Dr. K. Ulmanis, President of the State and Prime Minister The Song Festival in the coming summer will be an All-Latvian Festival in the truest sense of the word and will reveal remarkable achievements in the sphere of the cultural life of Latvia, these achievements being the result of following the trail, blazed by the leader, to a great and glorious future.

The Latvian people have lived for many centuries along the Baltic coast and constitute the original Baltic branch of the Indo-European family. So far they have preserved their Aryan strength and developed a unique and noble culture, which they foster with pride and love, that they may set it like a splendid jewel in the crown of human culture.

The Latvians are a song-loving people, as their rich folklore proves. The number of Latvian folk-songs runs into hundreds of thousands and they are the fountain-head from which the people derive not only their clear, ethical outlook on the world, but the originality and force of their creativeness in art.

These unique and rich folk-melodies constitute the ground-work of Latvian music and choir-singing, for it has

Playing a Latvian Stringed Instrument.



In the summer of this year, on 18th and 19th June, the ninth All-Latvian National Song Festival, under the noble patronage of Dr. K. Ulmanis, leader of the Latvian nation, will be celebrated in Riga, the capital of Latvia, by the free people of Latvia.

The great significance of this Festival lies in the fact that it celebrates the political freedom and sovereignty of the people of Latvia, the twenty years jubilee of the independent state of Latvia.

In the coming summer, Latvian folk-songs, which have been sung through the centuries, will be sung enthusiastically and lustily, especially as, on the occasion of this Song Festival, the Latvian people will proclaim and extol the unanimity which prevails among the people of Latvia and which, from 15th May, 1934, has been instilled by their leader,



A View of Koknese.

been the age-long tradition to mark every event, from the cradle to the grave, by the singing of these melodies either by the individual or the group. The All-Latvian Song Festival had its beginnings as far back as the last century (the first was in 1873).

The Song Festival in June will be the ninth in number and will be a true continuation and apotheosis of the beautiful tradition.

More than 400 choirs comprised of approximately 18,000 singers will participate in the ninth Song Festival. All the singers and most of the audience will attend dressed in the beautiful national costumes of the various districts and will thus provide a feast of colour for the eye of the artist and of others who love beautiful colours. Choirs from the neighbouring countries, Lithuania and Estonia, will attend this Festival and will come dressed in national costume.

Thirty-two choir-songs form the bulk of the musical programme and will be conducted by the famous Latvian conductors, T. Reiters, E. Melngailis, and T. Kalniņš.

The arrangements for this Festival will be made by a special Festival Committee presided over by Prof. J. Vītols, Rector of the Conservatoire.

In addition to the main artistic programme there will be a competition between choirs — a battle of song.

Symphony concerts and performances of original Latvian operas will be given at the National Opera.

In the poetry and soul of the Latvians we find vividly envisaged the idea of the universal power of song. Not only does song make life more tolerable, but the spirit of song dispels enmity, while the power of song stays arrows and wards off wars. That is why the people of Latvia, by celebrating their ninth Song Festival in June, hope that the spirit and sound of their song will spread far beyond the boundaries of their own country. May this lively belief of the nation be justified. May song be the bond uniting the culture and art of the nations. May it be the promoter of brotherhood, cooperation, and peace.

The Riga Seaside Beach.

