



LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL

Manchester, July 10th and 11th, 1954

Free Trade Hall

Sunday, July 11, at 4 p.m.

CHORAL CONCERT

COMBINED LATVIAN MIXED
AND MALE VOICE CHOIRS

CONDUCTOR: ALBERTS JERUMS

ANDREJS POMMERS

DAUMANTS VITOLS

ROBERTS ZUIKA

AT THE ORGAN EDUARDS SENFELDS

PART SONGS AND FOLK SONG ARRANGEMENTS BY LATVIAN
COMPOSERS

TICKETS AT 7/6, 6/- AND 5/- ALL BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE,
MAY BE OBTAINED FROM FORSYTH BROS., 126, DEANSGATE.

CHEETHAM TOWN HALL

SATURDAY, JULY 10, AT 7 P.M.

Recital of Latvian Songs

AUSTRA HOLCMANE · KSENIJA BIDINA · EDVINS KRUMINS

(soprano)

(mezzo soprano)

(baritone)

PIANOFORTE: ALBERTS JERUMS

SONGS BY CONTEMPORARY LATVIAN COMPOSERS

TICKETS AT 6/- AND 4/- ALL BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE,
MAY BE OBTAINED FROM FORSYTH BROS., 126, DEANS GATE

EXHIBITION OF LATVIAN CRAFTS AND BOOKS

10th and 11th of July, 1954

THE LATVIAN SONG FESTIVALS are a traditional feature of the cultural life of the Latvian nation. They were the rallying point of the national spirit and of the creative forces in all the arts. Much of what is best and most cherished in the Latvian national heritage has received the warmth necessary for growth from the tradition of the Festivals. The Latvian national anthem: "Dievs, svēti Latviju" (God Bless Latvia—a prayer of the Latvian people for freedom) was first heard at a Song Festival.

On a national scale the song festivals were held every five years. On these occasions a mass choir, sometimes up to 20,000 singers strong congregated in the capital. There were numerous artistic activities covered by the Song Festivals. Prizes for new songs were announced and their authors hailed. There were concerts of new music, theatrical productions and art exhibitions. All this marked the song festival season with a particular accent on stimulating the creative artist.

Now the Latvian people are scattered all over the world. But in the Free World the flame is kept alive. In Britain alone this is the fourth Song Festival the Latvians have held since 1949. We cannot aspire to the same magnitude and splendour as once accompanied the Song Festivals in Riga, but we are faithful to the spirit.