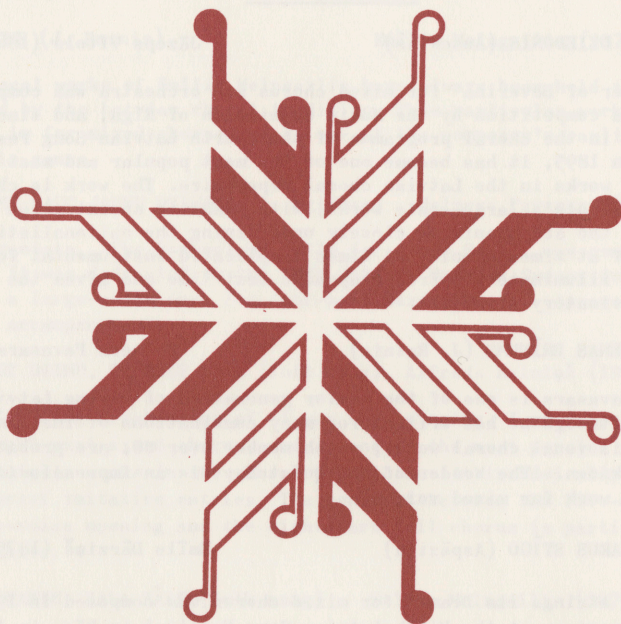


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**TENTH LATVIAN
SONG FESTIVAL
IN GREAT BRITAIN
LEICESTER
24-26 JULY 1981**

CHORAL CONCERT

(Combined Latvian Choirs from England,
West Germany and Sweden)

De Montfort Hall, Granville Road, Leicester
Sunday, 26th July, 4:00 p.m.

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PROGRAMME NOTES

BEVERĪNAS DZIEDONIS (Auseklis)

Jāzeps Vītols (1863-1948)

'The Singer of Beverina' for mixed chorus and orchestra was composed in 1891 for a competition by the Music Commission of Rīga, and since its inclusion in the choral programme of the Fourth Latvian Song Festival in Jelgava in 1895, it has become one of the most popular and most often performed works in the Latvian choral repertoire. The work is characteristic of Vītols's large-scale works, with dramatic accentuation and pathos in the accompaniment closely underlining the nationalistic text. The use of at times simple, at times complicated instrumental formulas serves to illuminate the free rhapsodic text line and gives the work its improvisatory structure.

KLUSĀS DIENAS BRĪNUMS (J. Rainis)

Helmers Pavasars (*1903)

Helmers Pavasars is one of the senior generation of living Latvian composers. Although he has written for many combinations of instruments and voices, his vocal choral works, which number over 80, are probably his best known. 'The Wonder of the Quiet Day' is an impressionistic, five-part work for mixed voices.

MĒNESS STARUS STĪGO (Aspāzija)

Emīls Dārziņš (1875-1910)

'The Moon strings its Beams' for mixed chorus was composed in 1900 and had its premiere at the Fifth Latvian Song Festival in Rīga in 1910. Written in ternary form, the work is a true example of Latvian Romantic choral music and belongs very much to the lyric melodic genre of Dārziņš's compositions.

KALNS, JŪRA (A. Eglītis)

Longīns Apkalns (*1923)

Longīns Apkalns belongs to the younger generation of Latvian composers. His music shows traces of the influence of Hindemith and Schoenberg, both in his use of complex rhythmic structures and chordal, atonal harmonies. 'The mountain, the Sea' is a short work for four-part mixed chorus.

PIE TĒVU ZEMES DĀRGĀS (F. Šillers)

Emīls Dārziņš (1875-1910)

'Remain close to your dear Homeland' is a short work for men's four-part chorus which was composed in 1898.

MEŽEZERS (Keniņš)

Jāzeps Vītols (1863-1948)

'The Lake of the Woods', composed in 1900, is a lyric strophic work for four-part men's chorus. It is written in a classic, lyric style characteristic of Vītols's miniature works.

AIZ UPĪTES SKAISTAS MEITAS (folk song)

Jānis Kalniņš (*1904)

'There are beautiful Girls across the River' is an arrangement of a Latvian folk song for men's chorus. The traditional melody is here presented in a set of variations which are used to set off the dialogue of the text.

SENATNE (J. Rainis)

Emīlis Melngailis (1874-1954)

The vocal works of Emīlis Melngailis have always been held in high regard by the Latvian choral tradition. This particular work, 'Long ago', is for mixed chorus and is one of the composer's earlier works in this genre.

TĒVZEME SAUC JAUNU DZIESMU (A. Eglītis) Helmers Pavasars (*1903)

This cantata, 'The Fatherland calls for a new Song', was composed in 1978. It was dedicated to the 29th Culture Days in Sydney Australia. It is a large-scale work for four-part mixed chorus, soprano solo and organ accompaniment.

DZIEDOT DZIMU, DZIEDOT AUGU (folk song) Alfreds Kalniņš (1879-1951)

This folksong arrangement of 'I was born singing, I grew up singing' is for eight-part mixed chorus, and is one of the most popular and colourful of Kalniņš's works in the choral repertoire. It is basically homophonic with brief imitative entries. The contrast between the five-part female-voice opening and the eight-part full chorus is particularly attractive.

TUMŠĀ NAKTE, ZAĻĀ ZĀLE (folk song) Emīlis Melngailis (1874-1954)

'The dark Night, the green Grass' is one of Melngailis's early folksong arrangements for mixed chorus. This work has always been popular both in small and in large choirs.

SAULĪT VĒLU VAKARĀ (folk song) Tāļivaldis Ķeniņš (*1919)

'The Sun late in the Evening', composed in 1974, is a setting of folksong texts and melodies from the areas of Skrunda and Barta. The modality of the original melodic line serves as a basis for the harmonies in this work.

AIZ KRŪMIŅĀ, AIZ VĒJIŅĀ (folk song) Jēkabs Graubiņš (1886-1961)

Graubiņš's major contribution to the Latvian musical repertoire was in the field of choral arrangements of Latvian folksong. This strophic arrangement for soprano solo and mixed chorus, 'Behind a Bush, behind the Wind', was composed in 1937 and remains a firm favourite in the repertoire.

AI, ZAĻĀ BĒRZU BIRZE (folk song) Valentīns Bērzkalns (1914-1977)

NORIET SAULE VAKARĀ (folk song)

Bērzkalns is perhaps best known for his folksong arrangements for women's chorus, many of which were composed specifically for the women's ensemble 'Sidrabene'. 'Oh, green Birches', composed in 1940 and 'The Sun sets at Evening' (1943) are but two of these arrangements. Although not complicated in their musical structure (they are both strophic), their very simplicity makes them attractive and they are effective whether sung by large women's choirs or small vocal ensembles.

LATVIJAS NACIŅĀLĀ BIBLIOTĒKA



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EJ, SAULĪTE, DRĪZ PIE DIEVA (folk song) Alberts Jērumš (1919-1978)

This arrangement of the old Latvian folk song 'Go, Sun, now to God', was composed in Germany in 1945, and has a long-standing place in the choir repertoire.

TĒVIJAI (A. Jurjāns) Andrejs Jurjāns (1856-1922)

Andrejs Jurjāns is considered by many as the father of Latvian national music. This cantata, 'To Latvia', for mixed chorus, soprano solo and orchestra, was first performed at the Third Latvian Song Festival in Riga in 1888. The work is a large ternary structure, with the march-like choral parts contrasting sharply with the lyrical soprano solo.

TEV MŪŽAM DZĪVOT LATVIJA (V. Plūdonis) Jānis Mediņš (1890-1966)

Mediņš composed this choral work, 'May Latvia live forever', in 1935. It had its premiere at the Ninth Latvian Song Festival in Riga in 1938 and subsequently the Latvian people have adopted the work as an unofficial national anthem. It is one of the most familiar and best-loved works of all Latvians.