

FOLK DANCE PERFORMANCE

Sunday 29th December

8 PM Perth Concert Hall.

Programme Organizer: Brigita Plucis

Narrators: Emily Riekstins
Janis Pelss

Singers: Anita Rudaks
Daina Varpins
Gita Balodis
Andris Varpins
Janis Vucens
Gunis Balodis
Singers from the
Adelaide group "Ausma"

Orchestra:

Violins - Alice Evans
Gillian Croston
Oboes - Rachel Rimmer
Stephanie Wager
Flute - Linda Rosson
Clarinet - Lindsay Vickery
Bassoon - Linda Young
Cello - Elizabeth Rimmer
Piano - Inta Burns
Gita Balodis

Musical Director : Gita Balodis

Decorator : Indra Geidans

Participating groups

1. Perkonitis - Perth
2. Rota - Sydney
3. Ritenitis - Melbourne
4. Jautrais Paris - Sydney
5. Dienvidnieki - Adelaide
6. Daugaviesi Sakta - Melbourne
7. Auseklitis - Adelaide
8. Sprigulitis - Canberra
9. Latvian School Children - Perth

I
NARRATORS

VAI PRIEDĪTE, VAI EGLĪTE (Is it a Pinetree, is it a Firtree)

Participants - all groups and singers

SPĪDEKLIS (Dance of the Morning Star) Participants - 1, 4

MUNSTURIS (traditional Latvian Dance): Participants - 1, 2, 3, 5

NARRATORS

SEŠDANCIS (The Dance For Six) : Participants - 9

ENĀELĪTIS (The Dance of The Angels) : Participants - 1, 2, 4

DĒJAS PRIEKŠ (The Joy of the Dance) : Participants - 5

VISI CIEMA SUNI PĒJA (All The Neighbourhood Dogs are Barking)

Participants - all groups and the singers

NARRATORS

DIVPADSMITDANCIS (the Dance For Twelve) : Participants - 1, 2, 3

ES REDZĒJU JŪRINAI (I Saw Out On The Ocean)

Participants - "Ausma" and the singers

MEITA PUISUS DANCINĀJA (The Girl leads the Boys in a Dance)

Participants - 5

ALSUNGAS CETRPĀRU DEJA (Alsungas Dance for Four Pairs)

Participants - 2

NARRATORS

ZVEJNIECIŅŠ (The Fisherman's Invitation)

Participants - all groups and the singers

II

TRĪS PRIELĪTES SILIŅĀ (Three Pinetrees in the Grove)

Participants - "Ausma" and the singers

SUDMALIŅAS (The Windmills) : Participants - 2, 3, 5

EGLĪTES DEJA (The Dance of the Firtree) : Participants - 4

CIEĶKURS (The Pinecone Dance) : Participants - 3

DIZDANCIS (traditional dance) : Participants - 1, 4, 8

NARRATORS

RUCAVIETIS (traditional dance) : Participants - 1, 3, 4, 5

KUR PRIEDĪTE TAVAS SKUJAS (Pinetree, where are your Pineneedles)

Participants - "Ausma" and the singers

MUSKADRILIS (traditional dance) : Participants - 2, 3, 5

NARRATORS

UGUNSKURA DEJA (The Fire Dance) : Participants - 1, 3, 4

SKUJIŅA (The Dance of the Pineneedles) : Participants - 1

METIENIŅŠ (The Throwing Dance), PLĀUKSTIŅDEJA (Clapping Dance),

PĒRKONDEJA (The Thunder Dance) : Participants - all groups and the singers

Welcome to the Performance of the 35th Latvian Arts Festival in Australia. We trust that this will provide you with a better understanding of the proceedings, and hope that you will enjoy the performance.

Folk dances form an important part of the Latvian cultural heritage. Though not as temperamental and spectacular as other national dances, they do justice in reflecting the Northern character. The dignity and relative slowness of the Latvian dances does not deprive them of their cheerfulness and playfulness.

Originally folk dances expressed mostly magical rhythms and cults, while in the later period of development and in present social events they have become entertaining in purpose.

Most of the dances known today originated between the 13th and 16th centuries. The collection and recording of Latvian folk dances started only in the 1920's, when many of the old traditions were already extinct.

Various characteristics have been borrowed from other nations, but in general, Latvian folk dances are more closely related to Scandinavian and north German dances.

The basic and oldest dance step is the light running step, although the hop step, waltz step and the Latvian Polka are just as prevalent.

Singing and special musical instruments such as woodwinds, horns, tympanii, bells and the "kokle", accompany the dancing.

In almost every Latvian community throughout the free world folk dancing is still practised.

Folk dance groups participate in numerous community events such as Folkloric Festivals and international folk festivals every year. Thus, Latvian folk dance, like the Latvian spirit is not doomed for extinction, but is ever revived and always enjoyed.