



LATVIAN SONG FESTIVAL IN CANADA

July 1- 5, 2009
Hamilton, Ontario

The Latvian Song Festival tradition dates back to 1873 when the first nation wide song festival was held in Riga, Latvia. The Song Festival tradition also continued after the Second World War in the Latvian immigrant communities of Canada, the United States, Australia and Western Europe, as a means of bringing people together and strengthening the Latvian identity. The first Latvian Song Festival in Canada was held in October 1954. The Latvian Song Festival tradition has continued in Canada to this day, with the 13th Latvian Song Festival in Canada to be held in Hamilton, Ontario from this July 1 to 5th in 2009.

The Organizing committee of the 13th Latvian Song Festival in Canada invites you to come join us in Hamilton this July to celebrate Latvian song and dance!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

ON-GOING EVENTS (June 27– Sept. 7, 2009):

Juried fine art exhibition in the Jean and Ross Fischer Gallery at the Art Gallery of Hamilton (AGH), An exhibition of fine art featuring the work of contemporary Latvian Canadian artists.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

OPENING CEREMONIES - SOUND THE DRUMS! (13:00 Hamilton Place)

A celebration through song from folk to contemporary music culminating with „Sound the drums” performed by a youth choir. Featuring: Choir “Burtnieks” from Riga, Latvia; Dulcimer ensemble “Kokle” from Latvia, together with Ottawa dulcimer ensemble; Latvian folk dance troupes from Toronto and Latvia.

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

(17:00 Christ's Church Cathedral)
Sacred choral repertoire of I. Arne, V. Bastiks, R. Jermaks (premiere), A. Okolo-Kulaks, H. Pavasars and A. Purvs; organ works by T. Ķenins and J. Norvilis.

FOLK COSTUME SHOW (17:00, Sheraton Hotel)

A runway show of regional Latvian folk costumes with informative commentary.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

FILMS (10:00 Sheraton)

Two Latvian documentary films with English subtitles. Tevs, Radi, Kulmasina (Father, family, tractor) (2006, 58 min) AND Sviest, bekons un mana mate (Butter, bacon and my mother) (2008, 52 min)

NEW CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION

(13:00 Hamilton Place)
Original choreography finale with performances by competing Latvian folk dance groups from Canada, USA and Latvia

FRIDAY, JULY 3 (continued)

GUEST CHOIRS FROM LATVIA CONCERT

(16:00 Christ's Church Cathedral)
Two outstanding mixed choirs from Riga, Latvia „Burtnieks” and the youth choir „Balsis”

LATVIAN MUSIC CONCERT

(20:00 Hamilton Place)
String orchestra repertoire from Vītols to Ramiņš performed by 13 professional string players (all of Latvian descent) from across North America. Includes special performance by pianist Arturs Ozolins

SATURDAY, JULY 4

FILMS (10:00 Sheraton)

Latvian film with English subtitles. Rigas sargi (Defenders of Riga) (2007, 118 min)

MASSED CHOIR CONCERT

(15:00 Hamilton Place)
Latvia's classic composers and more recent repertoire from Canada and Latvia, concluding with A. Kalniņš „Midsummer's Night Songs” performed by choirs from cities across North America and Latvia.

SUNDAY, JULY 5

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

(10:30 Christ's Church Cathedral)
A service for all denominations. World premiere of R. Jermaks' cantata performed by “Balsis” from Riga, Latvia and soloists.

FOLK DANCE SPECTACLE AND

CLOSING CEREMONY (16:00 Copps Coliseum)
500 dancers coming from cities across North America and Latvia perform traditional dances and new choreographies.

www.latviansongfest.com