Latvian Centennial Arts Concert

2017–2018 Season
510th Concert

Sunday 25 March 2018
Dalton Center Recital Hall
3:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY CHORALE
Arianne Abela, Conductor

UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bruce Uchimura, Conductor

Vocal Soloists from University Chorale

Jāzeps Vītols
*Mirdzas dziesma*
Alexandra Galla, Mezzo-Soprano
Gunta Laukmane, Piano and Coach

Jāis Mediņš
*Ir vien vakars*
Hayley Girard, Soprano
Gunta Laukmane, Piano and Coach

Emīls Dārziņš
*Teici to stundu*
Isaac James, Baritone
Gunta Laukmane, Piano and Coach

University Chorale

Pēteris Vasks
*Klusas dziesmas*

I. Nosāpi pārsāpi
hurt overhurt
life long day
let you be carried
in a handkerchief green
let you be buried
flowers and roses
then will rise
then you will unhurt yourself

II. Dusi dusi
sleep sleep you, the tired one
the night has not come for me yet
the sun has put down the dawn
far away against your side
quietly quietly has glittered
one song has sung
one half has started
the other one has fallen asleep
PROGRAM NOTE

This concert attempts to reflect the vast variety of Latvian composers. Virtually all of Latvia’s major composers wrote arrangements for some of the over 1,000,000 folk songs (to 30,000 melodies), collected in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Latvian choir movement began with 4-part arrangements of folk songs by Janis Cimze (1814–81). As well, composers often used folk songs as themes for larger works: symphonies and concertos, and they also appear in Latvian opera.

The first composer of serious music to be acknowledged outside of Latvia was Andrejs Jurjans, composer of the mighty patriotic cantata Tevijai (To the Homeland). After him, came hundreds of well-trained (mostly in St. Petersburg) composers, writing mainly in the romantic tradition, including the three brothers Medinš. A very fine music school in Riga is named for Jazeps Medinš.

Today, the major composers from Latvia, (and known around the world) are Peteris Vasks and Eriks Ešenvalds. However, there is also a long tradition of composers of Latvian heritage outside of Latvia, that began with those that fled in 1945 (among them: Jazeps Vitols—the founder of the Latvian Conservatory of Music, Janis Kalninš, Janis Medinš and Talivaldis Keninš). That tradition continues today, with the brightest examples being Imants Raminš, (a very highly-regarded choral composer) and Lolita Ritmane (an Emmy® award winner, best known for her TV and film scores, but also with an enormous amount of repertoire for Latvian audiences).

The University Chorale would like to thank Gunta Laukmane for coaching Chorale on Latvian diction and for preparing the vocal soloists on the first set in the program.

Please join the orchestra for its final concert on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m. in Miller Auditorium. The winners of the annual WMU Concerto Competition—trombonist Will Ford, saxophonist Andrew Keating, and percussionist Evan Leffert—will be the featured soloists. Giuseppe Verdi’s Overture to La Forza del destino and Richard Strauss’ Till Eulenspiegel will also be performed.