

2015. gada pirmajā pusgadā Latvija kļuvis par prezidējošo valsti Eiropas Savienības Padomē. Latvijas vēstniecība Budapeštā ārkārtējā un pilnvarotā vēstnieka Imanta Lieģa vadībā plāno rīkot *Latviešu Mūzikas dienas* Budapeštas Mūzikas centrā (*Budapest Music Center*) janvāra beigās. Paredzēta Pētera Vaska kā rezidējošā komponista viesošanās; viņa, kā arī citu latviešu komponistu darbi skanēs *Simfonieta Rīga* (soliste Vineta Sareika) koncertā 22. janvārī un Vestarda Šimkus solokonzertā 23. janvārī. Savukārt 24. janvārī turpat koncertēs Denisa Paškeviča džeza kvartets.

Latvijas ES Prezidentūras kultūras programmas ietvaros iecerēta latviešu un ungāru kamerģmūzikas koncertturneja, kurā piedalīsies ungāru ċelliste Āģneša Kāloja un latviešu pianiste Diāna Zandberģa; to atbalsta Latvijas vēstniecģba Ungārijā, Ungārijas vēstniecģba Latvijā un vēstniece Adriena Millere (*Adrien Müller*), Valsts Kultģrģkapitāla fonds un Rģgas Latviešu biedrģbas Mģzģkas komisģja. Koncerti notiks 17. aprģlģ Budapeštas koncertzālģ *Nádor Terem*, 22. aprģlģ Rģgas Latviešu biedrģbas Zelta zālģ un 23. aprģlģ Ventspģls Pārventas bibliotģkģ; to ietvaros paredzģta arī pģtģjuma *Latvģjas un Ungārijas kultģrvģsturģskās attģcģbas mģzģkas jomā* prezentģcija.

Tādģģģdi Latvģjas un Ungārijas attģcģbu kultģrvģsturģskģ konteksta analģze ļauj secinģt: tieģģ 21. gadsimta otrģģ desmitģdģ abu valstu mģzģkas sakari pamazģm atģģst to intensģtģti, kas pastģvģģja 20. gadsimta 30. gados un jo ģpaģģ – laikģ no 1934. lģdz 1938. gadam.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN LATVIA AND HUNGARY IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC

Diāna Zandberģa

Summary

Though Hungarian and Latvian diplomatic relations date back to July 20, 1921, when Hungary recognized the independence of the Latvian Republic and the Honorary Consul of Hungary was appointed in Riga, the cultural and historical links between the two countries in the fields of literature, fine arts and music existed much earlier.

Already in the 19th century and early 20th century, several famous Hungarian musicians visited Latvia; among them were pianist and composer Ferenc (Franz) Liszt (1811–1886) in 1842, violinists József Joachim (1831–1907) in 1876 and József Szigeti (1892–1973) in 1924.

Latvian and Hungarian relations are based on many years of cooperation and mutual affection. However, there was a particular intensity in the 1930s and 1940s – in Latvia’s first period of independence, when active diplomatic missions commenced with the goal of promotion of cultural and economic links. One of the diplomats who was most

affected by Latvian and Hungarian cultural links, including the field of music, was the Riga born Baltic German, Officer of the Latvian Order of the Three Stars Rolf Krause (1894–1961). From 1923 to 1940, Mr. Krause was the Hungarian Telegraphic Agency representative in the Baltic States and from 1936 to 1940 the Hungarian Honorary Consul in Latvia.

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Thanks to initiative of Mr. Rolf Krause, in May 1933, an exhibit about Latvia appeared at the Budapest International Fair (*Budapester Internationale Messe*). Together with Mr. Krause, there was an official delegation of ten journalists from several major Latvian newspapers and magazines, resulting in an extensive series of articles about Hungarian history and culture.

The next step in the development of Latvian and Hungarian cultural links was two performances of the Latvian National Opera ballet troupe at the Városi Színház theatre in Budapest on May 12 and 13, 1934. These guest performances were not only great artistic successes, but also events with great public interest. For the second performance, members of the Hungarian government, aristocrats and diplomats were in attendance.

To further encourage Latvian and Hungarian cultural links, the Latvian and Hungarian Society in Riga was established with more than a hundred participants in 1936, and was led by the famous Latvian writer Edvarts Virza. The Society's activities included: concerts by the Teodors Reiters choir in Hungary on April 22, 1936; a recital of renowned Hungarian pianist Gyula Károlyi at the Blackheads House in Riga on February 28, 1937; in collaboration with the Hungarian Latvian Society in Budapest – a concert of Latvian composer and conductor Jānis Mediņš with the Budapest Symphony orchestra (soloist Gyula Károlyi) on April 4, 1938 at the Budapest Academy of Music, as well as a guest performance of the Palestrina choir from Budapest with conductor Victor Vaszy and four Hungarian opera singers (Ilonka Kovács, Mária Basilides, Dr. Miklós Szedő, Oszkár Kálmán) at the Latvian National opera together with the Latvian National Opera Symphony orchestra performing Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* on April 26 and a Palestrina choir concert at the University of Latvia Hall on April 27, 1938.

One of the last major activities with the participation of the Latvian Hungarian Society was the opening of the Liv's house in Mazirbe on August 6, 1939, which was held in collaboration with the support of Finnish and Estonian associations of Finno-Ugric nations.

Though an agreement was reached in 1939 about guest performances in Hungary in the spring of 1940 by the Latvian Teodors Reiters choir, it was not destined to be realized due to the dangerous political situation. Latvian and Hungarian cultural and historical relations were suspended by totalitarian aggression beginning in the 1940s, which left traces of the tragic destinies of the two countries.

After the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Latvia, diplomatic relations between Latvia and Hungary were restored on September 2, 1991. However, only in the second decade of the 21st century did Latvian and Hungarian cultural relations in the field of music gradually reach the intensity that existed between the two countries during the period from 1934 to 1938.

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