



EU2015.LV

Culture Programme

Belgium

Luxembourg

Strasbourg

November 2014 – June 2015

Latvian Presidency
of the Council
of the European Union



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PHOTO: JĀNIS DEINĀTS

Latvia in Europe, Today and Tomorrow – the title of this Conference in Liège could well apply to Latvia's cultural programme during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Sociologist Amitai Etzioni has said that “we are what we celebrate”. In 2018 we will be celebrating Latvia's 100th anniversary. The Latvian Presidency is an important and symbolic step in anticipation of the celebrations to come. It confirms that Latvia is once again a fully-fledged part of Europe – as it always was, regardless of the efforts made by the Soviet regime to obstruct our path to European development. Latvia, which belongs to Europe and shares both its values and losses, has written its own story: the establishment of an independent state in 1918, a growing awareness of its national identity, and the strengthening of its national culture are now all part of the annals of history. This story also includes its own perspective on art, in which European art movements and trends have found their place alongside ethnic nuances and brilliant individual touches. Latvia is the custodian of great cultural treasures: our Song and Dance Festival has been recognised by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity; Riga's historic centre and majestic Art Nouveau buildings never fail to impress both-visitors and residents alike; and all the colours of the Latvian landscape have been woven into the brilliant diversity of its national costumes.

We have innate talent, established artists and unpolished gems, ambitious and determined young people who dream great dreams and radiate energy. In 2014, when international attention was focused on Riga as the European Capital of Culture, we took another symbolic step towards Latvia's centenary: we might be a small territory on the world map, but when it comes to culture, we are an inspiring superpower. Even though the process of evaluating art is often very complex and can be subjective, our musicians, artists, writers, theatre and cinema professionals regularly gain critical acclaim in the international cultural arena and stand out in distinguished competitions. The leading lights of Latvian culture include Elīna Garanča, Aleksandrs Antoņenko, Andris Nelsons, Gidons Krēmers, Pēteris Vasks, Alvis Hermanis, the Latvian Radio Choir, the State Choir Latvija, Iveta Apkalna and Baiba Skride. In various periods of history, Latvia has also been the birthplace of Mariss Jansons, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Mischa Maisky, Vija Celmins, Gunnar Birkerts, Mark Rothko and many others.

Latvia is a small country with a small cultural and linguistic reach. Culture inspires, consolidates and creates; being engaged in culture allows a person to become a personality and a patriot of their country. Having a strong backbone of national culture makes it easier for us to understand and accept the endless possibilities of worldwide cultural diversity.

The Presidency's cultural programme has therefore also been created to showcase this cultural heritage we are so proud of, and to demonstrate who we are today and who we want to be tomorrow. The voice of the *kokle* (a traditional Latvian stringed instrument) cascades in a waterfall of contemporary sound in the hands of Laima Jansone. Amber, the thousand-year-old gem of the Baltic sea, is woven into amber thread, an innovative twenty-first century technology. Fashion is no longer just about trends in clothing – under the *Mareunrol's* brand name, it is conquering theatre and opera stages. Those are just some shining examples of how old and new come together in Latvian culture, and how the blood of our ancestors finds its voice in the heartbeat of the twenty-first century.

The Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is the next step on our country's path to tomorrow. We are honoured that we can introduce the international community to our country's greatest treasures through the most attractive highlight of our Presidency – our cultural programme. I hope that this programme will bring you one step closer to Latvia!



Dace Melbārde
Minister for Culture of the Republic of Latvia



Introduction

From Brussels perspective, the first Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is especially important not just in terms of the political context, but also as a demonstration of good organisational and management skills. At the same time, the Presidency's Cultural Programme gives added value to the programme of political events.

Collaborative projects between cultural institutions and artists in Latvia, Belgium and Luxembourg will undoubtedly create a new cultural network. The foundations of the Latvian Presidency's extensive and exceptional programme of cultural events in Belgium and Luxembourg are formed by **excellent ideas, discussions and joint solutions**. It is evident that Latvian artists are regularly and intensively involved in European and global art events, but during the Latvian Presidency the stages and exhibition halls in Belgium and Luxembourg will become the showcase for Latvia's foremost artists and artwork.

The Cultural Programme in Belgium starts early. As a lead-in to Latvia's first presidency of the Council of the European Union, two exhibitions dedicated to **Belgian and Latvian painting** from the first half of the 20th century will open in Liège and La Louvière. The connection between Belgian and Latvian art has been much deeper than one might ever have realised. The late 1920s saw the beginnings of a Belgian influence in Latvian art that was to gather in strength in the 1930s, giving rise to a "Belgian fashion" in local painting. This explains why contemporary reviews and Latvian art history literature usually emphasise the decisive role of the Belgian influence which overshadowed all other impulses.

The official opening concert of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be held in the *Bozar* Centre for Fine Arts. This venue will welcome the Latvian mezzo-soprano, **Elīna Garanča**, one of the most charismatic artistes of her generation, accompanied by the National

accompanied by the National Orchestra of Belgium under the baton of **Karel Mark Chichon**, who was chief conductor and artistic director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra from 2008 to 2012.

The programme goes on to display its wide scope and diversity, presenting such international stars as Gidons Krēmers and *Kremerata Baltica*, conductor Andris Nelsons, the Latvian Radio Choir, organist Iveta Apkalna, violinists Baiba Skride and Vineta Sareika, and many others in exhibitions, performances, theatre and design shows. A special place in the cultural programme is devoted to **Latvian cinema** in Brussels – from the latest animation films to retrospectives on our most outstanding documentarians.

The *kokle* (Latvian national musical instrument similar to the harp/zither) player Laima Jansone's and her Trio performance, delivering a unique synthesis of traditional and jazz music, is proof that Latvia's rich

cultural heritage is alive and well and is a source of creative projects by our artists. The closing event of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will, however, mark the culmination of the Latvian jazz tradition when the stage is given to composer and pianist, Maestro Raimonds Pauls, and the **Latvian Radio Big Band**, which was revived after a sixteen-year break and has been greeted with standing ovations ever since. Performing with them will be a new star who has risen on the Latvian and, hopefully, the international jazz stage – the young and very talented singer Kristīne Prauliņa.

The Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union is a time when the great international responsibility resting on Latvia can also be used to set the foundations for new and creative projects and confirm the timeless power of art. It offers an ideal opportunity to highlight our most gifted artists who are the best ambassadors for both our culture and our country.



Content

November

19

Conference *Latvia in Europe, Today and Tomorrow* with the participation of Vaira Viķe-Freiberga (President of the World Leadership Alliance Club of Madrid and President of the Republic of Latvia 1999-2007).

19

Opening of the exhibition *Impressions and Parallels. Belgian and Latvian Painting from the Collections of the Latvian National Museum of Art and the Fine Arts Museum of Liège*.

December

1

Chamber music concert: Vineta Sareika (violin) with Artemis Quartet.

January

7

Design installation in the *Justus Lipsius* building of the Council of the European Union (till 30 June).

16

The Official opening concert of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Elīna Garanča (mezzo-soprano), National Orchestra of Belgium and Karel Mark Chichon (cond.).

February

13

Latvian animation films in Festival Anima 2015 (till 22 February).

13

Exhibition *Visionary Structures. From Johansons to Johansons* (till 31 May).

21

Opening of the exhibition *Impressions and Parallels. La Louvière – Riga* with the participation of contemporary Latvian artists.

28

Opening of the festival *Plaisirs d'Hiver* and the giant Christmas tree – Riga City's gift to Brussels.

17

Latvian Radio Choir *Vocal Poetry from East and West*: Toshio Hosokawa, Toru Takemitsu.

17

Double bill: *Rīgas Ritmi* Allstars (in the framework of Brussels Jazz Festival) feat. Laima Jansone Trio & Māris Briežkalns Quintet.

28

Elīna Bukša's (violin) and Pavel Kolesnikov's (piano) concert within the cycle "Concerts at Noon".

13 and 14

Alvis Hermanis (direction), Tatiana Tolstaya (text) and the New Riga Theatre presents the performance *Sonja*.

18

Latvian Culture Event at the European Economic and Social Committee.

25

Gidon Kremer : A Portrait. Gidon Kremer and *Kremerata Baltica*. *Bridges to Bach*.

26

Gidon Kremer: A Portrait. Gidon Kremer (violin), Giedrė Dirvanauskaitė (cello), Oleg Maisenberg (piano), Anna Vinnitskaya (piano).

March

12

Andris Nelsons (cond.), Alexei Ogrintchouk (oboe) and The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam.

15

BOZARSUNDAYS and Laima Jansone Trio.

April

1

Exhibition of Ieva Eņņere's work (contemporary photography) (till 20 May).

24

Latvian Radio Choir and Sigvards Kļava. Live soundtrack on the film *Lāčplēsis (The Bear-slayer)* by Aleksandrs Rusteiķis (1930).

26

Latvian Radio Choir and the Blindman quartet (saxophone).

May

6

Photo exhibition "25 Moments". The most memorable moments in the history of Latvia from the regaining of independence to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1990–2015).

June

4

The organist Iveta Apkalna.

15

Baiba Skride (violin) & Friends.

February

The International Love Film Festival of Mons.

27

Gidon Kremer: A Portrait. *Kremerata Baltica* – Gidon Kremer's birthday concert. Gidon Kremer (violin), Martha Argerich (piano), Alexei Mochalov (bass), Sergei Nakariakov (trumpet), *Kremerata Baltica*.

28

Latvian Cinema in Millenium International Documentary Film Festival.

27

Gidon Kremer: A Portrait. Gidon Kremer (conductor, violin), Mischa Maisky (cello), *Kremerata Baltica*.

28

Gidon Kremer: A Portrait. Gidon Kremer (violin), Daniil Trifonov (piano).

29

Gidon Kremer: A Portrait. *Kremerata Baltica*.

21

Film Director Laila Pakalniņa in *Bozar* Centre for Fine Arts.

16

Closing night. Latvian Radio Big Band, maestro Raimonds Pauls (piano), Kristine Prauliņa (vocal).



Impressions and Parallels

19 November

17:15

Fine Arts Museum of Liège (BAL), Liege
www.beauxartsliège.be

Conference Latvia in Europe, Today and Tomorrow. Presentations by:

Her Excellency **Vaira Viķe Freiberga**, former President of the Republic of Latvia and President of the World Leadership Alliance / Club de Madrid
“Europe: Battle arena, or our common home?”

Professor Emeritus **Francis Balace**, University of Liège
“Latvia: The rebirth of a nation in Europe”

20 November – 1 February

Opening on 19 November 18:30

Fine Arts Museum of Liège (BAL), Liege
www.beauxartsliège.be

22 November – 8 February

Opening on 21 November 19:00

Ianchelevici Museum, La Louvière
www.ianchelevici.be

At the end of the 1920s, Latvian art saw an influx of Belgian influences. These gained in strength in the 1930s, giving rise to a “Belgian fashion” in the local painting. The spread of Belgian impressions was encouraged by a large exhibition of Belgian art in Riga in the autumn of 1927. This was followed by the gift of a collection of Belgian art to the Latvian state in 1932 which was initiated by the

Latvian diplomat, Jānis Lazdiņš, and the Belgian commissioner general for foreign exhibitions, Paul Lambotte.

In November last year, a large exhibition named *Impressions and Parallels. Belgian and Latvian painting from the collection of the Latvian National Museum of Art. First half of the 20th Century* opened in the Art Museum Riga Bourse. Paintings by Isidore Opsomer, Albert

Saverys, Valerius de Saedeleer, Albert Servaes, Philibert Cockx, Louis Buisseret and other notable Belgian authors were on show for the first time alongside works by Latvian artists, Jānis Tidemanis, Kārlis Padeģs, Ģederts Eliass, Jānis Liepiņš, Leo Svemps, Eduards Kalniņš, Valdis Kalnroze, and others. The historical ties between the art of both countries is also reflected in the publication *Latvia – Belgium*, which was compiled by specialists from the Latvian National Museum of Art (LNMA) and the publishers, *Neputns*.



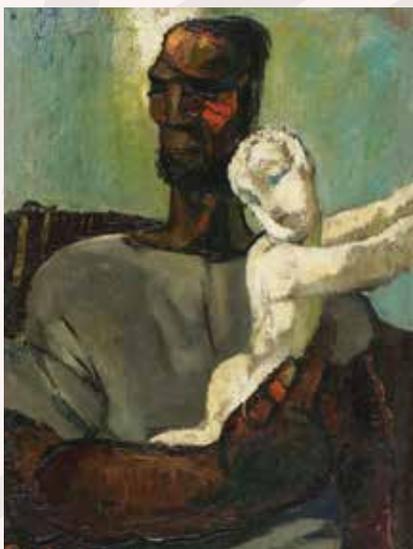
Jānis Tidemanis *Girl in a Folk Costume*, c. 1930. LNMA collection.

PHOTO: NORMUNDS BRASLIŅŠ

At the end of 2014, as a lead-in to Latvia's first Presidency of the Council of the European Union, two exhibitions will open in Belgium in order to draw attention to the ties between Belgian and Latvian art. On show will be works from the collections of the LNMA and the museums of the Walloon region.

In Liège the selection of Belgian and Latvian paintings that were on show in Riga will be varied with the addition of works from the collection of the Fine Arts Museum of Liège.

Works by the Wallonian artists' group, *Nervia*, from both partner museum's collections will be on show at the lanchelevici Museum in La Louvière. At the same time, Belgian art classics will be engaged in a dialogue with representative works from Latvian contemporary art.



Kārlis Padeģs *Father and Son*, 1932. LNMA collection.

PHOTO: NORMUNDS BRASLIŅŠ



Monika Pormale *Mis Worlds*, collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, property of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, 2009.



Krišs Salmanis *02cm 02.02.02.*, tattoo, series of photographs, 2002 – 2042.



Andrejs Grants *Andris Grinbergs*, Riga, 1983.

PHOTO: ANDREJS GRANTS

> *Continued from the previous page*

The curators of the lanchelevici Museum exhibition have envisaged the show as an interplay between traditional genres of visual art where works from the contemporary art collection of the LNMA fit into the framework of a specific genre: portrait, self-portrait, landscape, and still life. This approach encourages the perception of contemporary art through the prism of genres, and viewers are exposed to the possibilities of manifold linkages.

In this way, the three prints from the series, *Test for Identifying the Horizontals* (1992), by Vilnis Zābers in silkscreen and his own technique acquire the status of landscapes. The 1950s photographs that are arranged by the horizontals in the prints reveal an aesthetic view of life in Soviet times. Alongside a still life by Taf Waleet, there is the 2009 video, *Why I'm a Vegetarian*, by Krišs Salmanis which shows a violet vegetable hovering above a steaming pan. This still life is by no means silent as the author, inspired by Munch's *The Scream*, has the vegetable screaming in fear of the boiling water. The nude section is supplemented by one of Andrejs Grants' portraits of Andris Grinbergs.

Works that have been selected for exhibition from the contemporary art collection of the LNMA in order to illustrate genres and their contemporary variations, such as Kristaps Ģelzis' *Self-Portrait* from the luminescent large format series of paintings, *Bedtime Story*, Monika Pormale's photograph in a light box, *Miss Sightless*, Kristīne Kursiša's video installation, *Diagnosis of Karma*, and the landscape entitled *In the Summer Rain* by Miervaldis Polis could enrich and open up



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.
© IEVA EPNERE

new avenues of communication between art and society. The view of contemporary art processes through traditional aspects of perception that are being offered by the authors of the concept helps to reveal the unifying aspects in the art processes that takes place in various periods of time, along with their interconnections and causal relationships.

www.lnmm.lv



Eugene Laermans *Youth*, 1910s. LNMA collection.
PHOTO: ROBERTS KANIŅŠ

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REPUBLIC OF LATVIA IN BELGIUM



MINISTRY OF CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



Wallonie - Bruxelles
International.be

Lnmm
Latvian National Museum of Art

Liège
Une ville, un esprit.





The Giant Christmas Tree – Riga City's Gift to Brussels

20 November – 4 January

Inauguration of the tree – 28 November

(in the opening ceremony of the festival *Plaisirs D'Hiver*
www.plaisirsdhiver.be)



Riga always dresses up for Christmas!
PHOTO: LEONS BALODIS

Brussels residents and visitors to the city can learn the legend of the first decorated Christmas tree in Europe, whose origins have been traced to Riga, the capital of Latvia, at a unique event to be held in Brussels, the 'Heart of Europe'. From 20 November to 4 January, the *Riga Christmas Tree* will charm residents and guests alike.

Riga City Council and the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia in Belgium came up with the idea of erecting a *Riga Christmas Tree* on the *Grande-Place* in Brussels back in April, when the first two-day cultural and gastronomic fes-

tival *Taste Riga. Feel Riga* was organised in Molenbeek – Wallonia's Capital of Culture in 2014 – to introduce visitors to Riga's outstanding cultural heritage.

The decorations on the *Riga Christmas Tree* will depict Latvia's ethnographic heritage and the symbols of Riga. The inauguration event will be held on 28 November as part of the opening ceremony of the annual Brussels *Plaisirs d'Hiver* (*Winter Wonders*) Christmas festival. The full splendour of the *Riga Christmas Tree* will be revealed in the evenings when the city's Christmas lights are switched on.



Artemis Quartet and Vineta Sareika

1 December 20:00 (introduction 19:30)

DECEMBER

Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Brussels

www.conservatoire.be

Bedřich Smetana, String Quartet No. 1, *From my Life*

Pēteris Vasks, String Quartet No. 5

Antonín Dvořák, String Quartet No. 13, op. 106

The Artemis Quartet – which hardly needs an introduction these days – performs regularly in Brussels, to the delight of local audiences. In tune with this season's *Bohemian Rhapsody* theme, the quartet's programme includes Smetana and Dvořák, but also offers a new discovery – a Quartet by the Latvian composer, Pēteris Vasks (1946).

One of the members of the Artemis Quartet is the Latvian violinist, **Vineta Sareika**, a prize-winner in several international competitions and laureate of the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition in 2009. She plays a Joseph Guaragnini violin (1793), which is generously on loan to her from a private sponsor.



www.vineta-sareika.com
www.artemisquartet.com

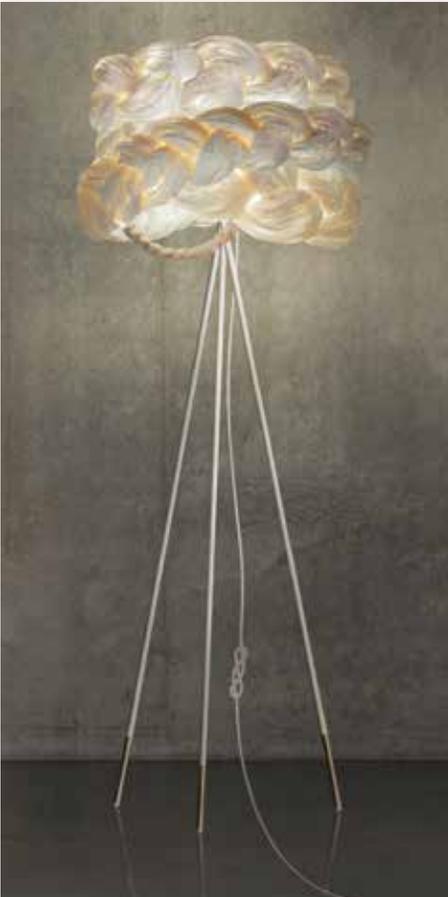
PHOTO: JĀNIS DEINĀTS
COURTESY OF VINETA SAREIKA



Justus Lipsius by Design Studio H2E

7 January – 30 June

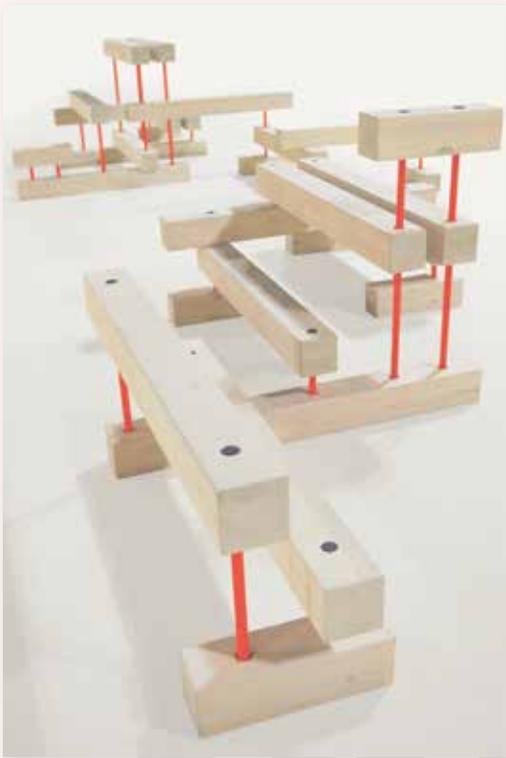
Council of the European Union Headquarters, Brussels
www.consilium.europa.eu



The *Bride* floor lamp, designer: Ieva Kalēja.

Design studio, H2E, is implementing *Justus Lipsius* – an interior design solution concept in this building in Brussels within the framework of the first Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The solution is aimed at promoting interest about Latvia by creating an attractive environment for communication in the context of Latvian design and traditions.

The interior on the building's ground level and on level 50 invites visitors to explore the space through experience by engaging people in the visual and tactile process of exploring Latvia. The main items include furniture that has been created by Latvian designers and large-scale photos of Latvian scenery that inspire visitors to communicate about and with Latvia. Several Latvian design brands are represented: unique, hand-made floor lamp by *mammalampa* (Ieva Kalēja); machine-made, laconic MINT furniture (Jānis Rauza); and the prestigious *Red Dot Award: Product Design 2012* winners, *Bloom Stool*, with stools that have been produced by *RIGA ChAIR™* (Aldis Cirčenis), as well as the *Spriego pats* bench which has been set up by the young designer, Ģirts Arājs, and which draws attention to the aspect of sustainability. The *Meet Me!* modular outdoor furniture system (Ligita Breģe)



Meet Me! furniture system, designer Ligita Breģe.

offers a functional recreational/ meeting venue and a singular style of playground for all ages.

The exhibition opens with *Spriguleits*, Latvian ethnographic dance steps, which offer visitors the chance to sense a significant part of the Latvian identity, of which the most striking manifestation is the tradition of the unique Latvian Song and Dance Festival, which is included in UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This leads to modern Latvian design based on an interpretation of trade traditions in the context of new technologies.

- www.h2e.lv
- www.mintmebeles.lv
- www.rigachair.com
- www.mammalampa.com



Spriego pats furniture, designer Ģirts Arājs.



Bloom stool, designer: Aldis Circenis.



Table and Comfy armchair, designer Jānis Rauza.



Level 50, visualisation by H2E.



The Official Opening Concert of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

16 January 20:00

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

National Orchestra of Belgium

Karel Mark Chichon, *conductor*



PHOTO: MARCO BORGGREVE

Elina Garanča, *mezzo*



© GABO/DG

Works by **Ēriks Ešenvalds, Hector Berlioz, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Igor Stravinsky,
and Andris Dzenītis**



Elina Garanča records exclusively for *Deutsche Grammophon*.

Bozar celebrates the beginning of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and welcomes the mezzo, Elina Garanča, one of the most charismatic artistes of her generation. For the occasion, she presents a musical journey across Europe and through different musical eras, from the France of Berlioz to the Russia of Tchaikovsky via the contemporary Latvia of Dzenītis and Ešenvalds. This is a varied

Elina Garanča was born into a musical family in Riga, Latvia, and studied at the Latvian Academy of Music with her mother Anita Garanča, professor and vocal pedagogue. Since September 2005, Ms Garanča has been an exclusive recording artist with *Deutsche Grammophon*. Among other awards, she has received the prestigious *ECHO Klassik* award for “Singer of the Year” twice, has been named as *Musical America’s Vocalist of the Year 2010*, has won the MIDEM Classical Award as “Singer of

Karel Mark Chichon is hailed as one of today’s most exciting young conductors. He has been described by the *New York Times* as “A conductor of genius”, and continues to thrill international audiences with his temperament, passion and musicianship. In recognition of his services to music, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain made Chichon an officer of the Most Excellent Order of

For more than 75 years, the **National Orchestra of Belgium** (NOB) has given passionate performances of the great classics of the symphonic repertoire, while also bringing the same vigour to

programme that will give full scope to the powerful stage presence and extraordinary vocal range of the Latvian star, who will be accompanied by the National Orchestra of Belgium, conducted by one of today’s most exciting young conductors, Karel Mark Chichon who, between 2008–2012, was also the chief conductor and artistic director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra.

the Year” and has been honoured by the *Wiener Staatsoper* with the title of “Kammersängerin”. Highlights of recent seasons include her critically-acclaimed house debut in the title role of Bizet’s *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. She reprised this role in a new production at the Metropolitan Opera which was broadcast in more than a thousand cinemas worldwide. Elina Garanča appears by arrangement with Askonas Holt. Elina Garanča records exclusively for *Deutsche Grammophon*.

the British Empire (OBE) in June 2012. He is chief conductor of the *Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern* (from September 2011), with whom he recently renewed his contract until 2017. His previous positions include chief conductor and artistic director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, and chief conductor of the Graz Symphony Orchestra.

bear on the music of its own time. NOB has a long-established partnership with the *Bozar* Centre for Fine Arts and it works closely with the Queen Elisabeth Competition.

www.elinagaranca.com
www.karemarkchichon.com
www.eriksesenvalds.com
www.dzenitis.webs.com
www.nob-onb.be



The Latvian Radio Choir. Vocal Poetry from East and West

17 January 20:00

Concertgebouw Brugge concert hall, Bruges
www.concertgebouw.be

Kaspars Putniņš, *conductor*
Tom De Cock, *percussion*

Robert Schumann,
Klosterfräulein and *Die Capelle*

Johannes Brahms,
Einförmig ist der Liebe Gram and *3*
Gesänge

Toru Takemitsu, *Wind Horse*

Toshio Hosokawa,
Die Lotosblume

Guo Wenjing,
Echoes of Heaven and Earth

Ruta Pajere, *A verso l'alto*

Masayoshi Fujita,
Swan and Morning Dews

Latvia is the cradle of choral music: singing is practically its national sport and the Latvian Radio Choir is the country's vocal ambassador. Connoisseurs regard the choir conducted by Kaspars Putniņš as one of the best in the world.

In this exceptional programme, the choir treats us to the wonderful and unexpected marriage of Romantic Western and contemporary Eastern choir repertoires. Toshio Hosokawa composed *Die Lotosblume* – a setting of a poem by Heinrich Heine – as a homage to Schumann. This shared fascination with nature can also be seen in the work of Toru Takemitsu, another of Hosokawa's heroes. Tranquil simplicity and complex eruptions of sound go hand in hand with sophisticated part-singing and fierce declamation. A rare listening experience.

The Latvian Radio Choir (LRC) ranks among the top professional chamber choirs in Europe, and its refined taste for musical material, its fineness of expression and vocals that are of



COURTESY OF THE LATVIAN RADIO CHOIR

unbelievably immense compass have charted its course as a noted brand on the world stage. Since 1992, the LRC has two conductors, Sigvards Kļava as the musical director and principal conductor, and Kaspars Putniņš.

The LRC's repertoire ranges from Renaissance music to the most sophisticated scores by modern composers; and it could be described as a sound laboratory in which the singers explore their skills by turning to the mysteries of traditional singing, as well as to the art of quartertone and overtone singing and other sound production

techniques. The choir has established a new understanding of the possibilities inherent in the human voice; one could also say that the choir is the creator of a new choral paradigm: every singer is a distinct individual with his or her own vocal signature and roles in performances. The expertise of singers has made the LRC a remarkably flexible ensemble that is able to deal with vocal and instrumental music, as well as with operatic performances, multimedia projects, intimate *a capella* talks, and theatrical shows in which singers can express themselves as soloists and talented actors.

www.radiokoris.lv

ALSO PERFORMING IN:

24 and 26 April
Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be



Double bill: Rīgas Ritmi All Stars

RIGAS RITMI

17 January 20:15

Studio 1, Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be

In the framework of the Brussels Jazz Festival Latvia offers two outstanding programmes from **Rīgas Ritmi** (*Riga Rhythms*) jazz festival, which is one of the most widely-attended and much-loved music events in Latvia. Since the first *Rīgas Ritmi* in 2001, around 500 artists from more than twenty countries have performed more than 500 concerts to an audience of over 170,000 people. These include Bobby McFerrin, Diane Reeves, *Take 6*, Richard Bona, Randy Brecker, *The Yellowjackets*, Victor Wooten, Buika, Astillero, Jojo Mayer, Medeski, Martin & Wood, Robert

Glasper, Diane Schuur, *Pat Metheny Unity Group*, James Morrison, Edmar Castaneda, and many others.

Among the festival's cornerstones are masterclasses, workshops, and seminars for young musicians, as one of the festival's main objectives is to educate both the audience and young musicians alike. The festival hosts jam sessions and other events, as well as its own showcase project that aims to present and promote Latvia's creative music industry and its export abroad to musical professionals and journalists from other countries.

www.rigasritmi.lv

Māris Briežkalns Quintet "Latvian Evergreens"



Drummer **Māris Briežkalns**.

Laima Jansone Trio



Artis Orubs, Laima Jansone, Andris Grunte.

Māris Briežkalns Quintet “Latvian Evergreens”

Māris Briežkalns, drums, band leader
Intars Busulis, voice, trombone
Viktors Ritovs, piano, keys
Gints Pabērzs, saxophones
Edvīns Ozols, bass

Special guest –
Tiago Loei, *percussions*

Māris Briežkalns Quintet (MBQ)

is one of the leading and most interesting small acoustic mainstream bands on the Latvian jazz scene, stretching special accents on pop jazz and Latin jazz. MBQ has performed on several international stages – at MIDEM, *Pori Jazz*, the *Rīgas Ritmi Festival*, *Ottawa Jazz*, *Kaunas Jazz*, *Nomme Jazz*, *Jazz Kaar*, *Jazz at Prague Castle*, the *Venice Jazz Festival*, *Jazz Baltica*, *Ankara Jazz*, and at the *Blue Note Jazz Club*, New York.

www.reverbnation.com/marisbriezkalnsquintet
www.intarsbusulis.com

Laima Jansone Trio

Laima Jansone, *kokle*
Artis Orubs, *percussions*
Andris Grunte, *double bass*

“The interplay between a jazz musician and a folk musician in finding common ground cannot possibly be easy. Yet it allows one to step back from jazz standards...”

— **Girts Pavēnis**, *jazzmusic.lv*

ALSO PERFORMING IN:

15 March
 Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

4 May
 Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg
www.ccrn.lu

“Māris’s music connected people, proving that there’s a wide audience for real art expressed by committed artists. His performance and ideas married perfectly with America’s jazz aesthetic.”

— **Dave Schroeder**,
 Director of Jazz Studies, New York University

In 2005, Māris Briežkalns, with his fellow musicians, created the first MBQ album, called *Latvian Evergreens*, not even imagining that the project might have a continuation. The band later released their second album, and it is as thrilling, witty and lovely as the first. Some pieces are musical mysteries, while others are distinguishable right away. But all of them are innovative, free from ancient jazz standards, and have been revived once again.

The Trio first appeared on stage at the *Rīgas Ritmi Festival* in 2012, when the Latvian *kokle* folk instrument player, Laima Jansone, performed together with percussionist Artis Orubs and bassist Andris Grunte. The trio revealed a new melodic synthesis, one that was unique and uncommon to jazz music. *All About Jazz* called the project ‘the find of the Festival’, as well as foreseeing a prosperous future for it. The trio continues to impress with their unique synthesis of modern and traditional music, joined by the extraordinary stage layout and the visual presence of other musicians.

www.laimajansone.com



Elina Bukša in “Concerts at Noon”

28 January 12:30

Musical Instruments Museum, Brussels

www.mim.be

Elina Bukša,
violin

Pavel Kolesnikov,
piano



PHOTO: BERNARD ROSENBERG

Ludwig van Beethoven,
Sonata No. 8 in G Major, for Violin
and Piano, op. 30 No. 3

Allegro Assai
Tempo di minuetto
Allegro Vivace

Benjamin Britten,
Suite for Violin and Piano, op. 6

Claude Debussy,
Violin Sonata in G Minor
Allegro vivo
Intermède: fantasque et léger
Finale: Très animé

24

Born in Latvia in 1990, **Elina Bukša** has been playing violin since the age of five. Since 2011 she has been studying with Ana Chumachenko in masterclasses in France, Germany and Switzerland. Since her debut with the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra at the age of twelve, Elina has undertaken important concert appearances in her native Latvia, and with the Latvian National Symphony orchestra, the Latvian National Opera Symphony orchestra, *Collegium Musicum Riga*, and others. Elina plays using a Domenico Montagnana violin dated to 1723, which is on loan to her by the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. In 2013, Elina received the Latvian Grand Music Award, the highest honour in Latvian music for “Debut of the Year”. Since September 2011, she has been studying at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, under the direction of Augustin Dumay. She received a scholarship from Mr and Mrs Michael Guttman.

Pavel Kolesnikov was born in Novosibirsk in 1989. He began studying the piano and violin at the age of six, and entered the Moscow State Conservatory in 2007. In September 2012, he entered the piano section of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel under the direction of Maria João Pires.



Latvian Culture Event at the European Economic and Social Committee

18 February 19:30

European Economic and Social Committee, Brussels
www.eesc.europa.eu

Entrance by invitation only



COURTESY OF BRUSSELS LATVIAN DANCERS

The National Evening has become a tradition – an event that takes place at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and which is organised by the country presiding over the Council of the EU. This year Latvia will be in charge of entertaining the four hundred EESC members and partners. The event will be launched by the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the EU, Ambassador Ilze Juhansone, and the EESC President, Henri Malosse.

The event programme includes a musical performance by the vocal group, *Ugunis*, and an instrumental performance by the band that is headed by Andris Amantovs, as well as a show of traditional Latvian folk dancing. The attendees will be invited to enjoy the photographic exhibition, *Latvia from a Bird's Eye View*, which will remain open for three weeks. Over the course of the evening, wild-mushroom soup will be served, cooked under the supervision of the Latvian-trained Belgian chef, Doric Duys.



Latvian Cinema in the International Animation Film Festival “Anima”

13 – 22 February

www.animafestival.be

From 13 till 22 February 2015, the International Animation Film Festival *Anima* will take place in Brussels during which more than 35,000 regular visitors of this festival will have a chance to see the most excellent examples of animation art from all over the world in various competition categories: national and international animation films, short and feature animation films. The visitors will have the opportunity to experience the retrospection of animation films, as well as, some special programmes. More than 50 international guests will participate in the festival.

This year, the festival's honorary guests will be from Latvia – a country with long-established traditions in puppetry films and countless talents in the animation genre. As previously announced, the director Signe Baumane will participate in the opening event of the competition's feature film category during which the visitors will have the chance to see her latest creation – the humoristic and witty full-length animation and Latvian submission for the Academy Awards *Akmeņi manās kabatās* (*Rocks in My Pockets*). The festival will also screen Signe Baumane's retrospective of animated short films, as well as a programme of Latvian animation films for children.



Signe Baumane *Rocks in My Pockets*, 2014.



In Other Cinema Festivals in Belgium

February

**The International Love Film
Festival of Mons, Mons**
www.fifa-mons.be

28 March – 5 April

**Millenium International
Documentary Film Festival, Brussels**
www.festivalmillenium.org

21 May

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be



Laila Pakalniņa *Pizzas*, 2012.
PHOTO: AGNESE ZELTIŅA

The Festival, which is traditionally set in February during the week of Saint Valentine's Day, deals with the theme of "Love" in all its forms. The selection of the films, which is far from obsolete and overused romantic clichés, is aimed at looking out onto the world and at film directors whose works are unfortunately not often commercially distributed.

Since it was founded in 2009, the Millenium International Film Festival continues its vocation by screening documentaries on issues calling on us to reflect and which help us discover the other, its complexity and the beauty of difference. Created with the goal of paying homage to films whose themes are related to the Millennium Development Goals, the festival has become a must-attend event because of the originality of its programming. This year it might include some pearls from Latvia: *Šķērsiela (Side-Street)* by Ivars Seleckis or *Vecāks par desmit minūtēm (Ten Minutes Older)* by Herz Frank.

In spring 2015, *Bozar* will welcome Laila Pakalniņa, Latvia's well known film director and screenwriter, along with a selection of her award-winning films that will be screened to the audiences of *Bozar*. Films included in this programme represent both the documentary and the fiction part of Laila Pakalniņa's creative life.



Visionary Structures. From Johansons to Johansons

RĪGA | 2014

EIROPAS KULTŪRAS GALVASPILSĒTA
EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

13 February – 31 May

Opening 12 February

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels

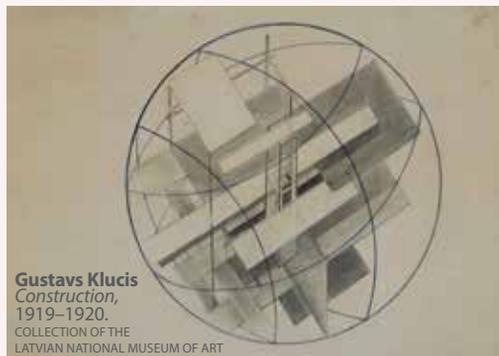
www.bozar.be

Works by **Gustavs Klucis** (1895–1938), **Kārlis Johansons** (1890–1929), **Valdis Celms** (1943), **Jānis Krievs** (1942), **Artūrs Riņķis** (1942), **Gints Gabrāns** (1970), **Voldemārs Johansons** (1980)

The exhibition entitled **Visionary Structures. From Johansons to Johansons** has been selected as a highlight that presents the most significant values of Latvia as part of the European cultural space. It offers an insight into Latvia's avant-garde art in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, covering the most experimental and visionary artistic endeavours of their day, as well as looking into their historical transformations. By instigating a dialogue between different periods,

the exhibition reveals parallels and coherences between works of art, each of which belongs to a different age and another ideological era.

The exposition in Brussels will tell the story of Latvian avant-garde art through a broad overview of works of globally renowned artists, Gustavs Klucis (1895–1938) and Kārlis Johansons (1890–1929), along with the projects of the internationally lesser-known modernists and visionaries of the Soviet period, Valdis Celms (1943), Jānis Krievs (1942), and Artūrs Riņķis (1942), as well as the complex synthesis of art, technology and science in the works of the most exciting contemporary artists, Gints Gabrāns (1970) and Voldemārs Johansons (1980). The curator of the exhibition is Ieva Astahovska and it is organised by the Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art in collaboration with the Latvian National Museum of Art.



Representing the earliest generation, the works of Kārlis Johansons and Gustavs Klucis today are at the centre of

international avant-garde art. These artists responded to Russia's post-revolution challenge for art to create a new way of materialising the dynamics of social life. They were interested in experiments in the exploration for revolutionary forms, which were directed by the conviction that art could inspire a new world and the artist could be part of this process.

The legacy of avant-garde art and futuristic ideas returned to the spotlight in the 1970s in the works of Valdis Celms, Jānis Krievs and Artūrs Riņķis. These artists were also captivated by the quest for an alternative, ideal space and new forms. They created imaginary visions on paper as well as proposals for ambitious projects, which condensed the problems of the era and at the same time diverged from the real social space.

At the centre of the works by the youngest artists in the exhibition – Gints Gabrāns and Voldemārs Johansons, – are quests that interpret complex processes both of visible and invisible reality through synergy between art and technology, natural and exact sciences. The motion of energy and the spaces of imagination are synthesised in these structures, uncovering new visionary worlds.

To coincide with the exhibition in Brussels a special edition double DVD set of *Klucis. The Deconstruction of an Artist* will be released by *VFS Films* for anyone who is interested in art, history and documentary cinema. It contains a documentary on Gustavs Klucis in seven languages, wide-ranging additional materials on the era, the artist's life and an evaluation of his creative heritage, as well as the chronology of the making of the film and its background. The release also contains reproductions of little-known sketches, posters and photo collages.

www.lcca.lv
www.inb.lv
www.inmm.lv



View of the Constructivist Group's part of the OBMOKHU Exhibition with **Kārlis Johansons's** works, Moscow, 1921.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VIACHESLAV KOLEICHUK, MOSCOW

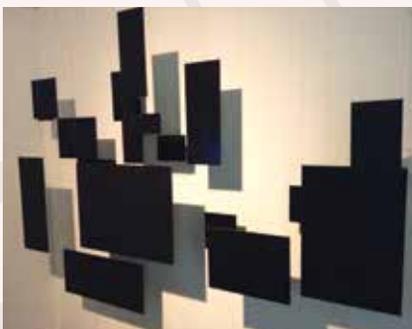


Jānis Krievs Audio kinetic light stage for Daugavpils Builder's House of Culture. Sketches for the visual programme, 1978.

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Gints Gabrāns *From No Where*, 2010 – 2014.



Voldemārs Johansons *Emissions*, 2011.



“Sonja” by The New Riga Theatre

13 February 20:30

14 February 20:30

Duration: 1h 40 min (no intermission)

Hall M, **Bozar Centre for Fine Arts**, Brussels

www.bozar.be

Cast:

Actors – **Gundars Āboliņš**
Jevgēnijs Isajevs

Director – **Alvis Hermanis**

Designer – **Kristīne Jurjāne**

Sound – **Andris Jarāns**

Light – **Arturs Skujiņš-Meiņiņš**

Stage technician – **Kārlis Tone**
Jānis Smirnovs

Stage manager – **Linda Zaharova**

Tour manager – **Elina Adamaite**

“There was a person and there isn’t a person any more. Only the name has remained – Sonja...”

— **Tatiana Tolstaya**

The performance is based on a short story by Tatiana Tolstaya. Tolstaya’s writings are characterised by an admirable depth of knowledge when it comes to human nature, something that is accompanied by a sophisticated commentary and precise observation of contemporary society. *Sonja* is an ironically sympathetic, grotesque and sad story – an impressionistic miniature about a lonely woman, whose fate has played a mean trick on her, which at the same time has become the biggest happiness of her life.

Sonja is a little dense, a little ugly, a little lonely. But she does have some talents: she is an excellent cook and seamstress, and is great at getting on people’s nerves. Then one day she receives a love letter, passionate and serious, and Sonja’s heart is aflame. Little does she realise that the letter was written by her evil friend, Ada. The letter changes Sonja’s life forever.

The space and authenticity of the environment plays a big role in this staging, and it is achieved by using real objects and



antiques. This is highly significant, as the world of things and belongings says the most about a human being.

“The character that has been created by Tolstaya combines huge contrasts: ugly in appearance and with a very sensitive inner world, a hard life and a delicate soul. I have entrusted a male actor to reveal these opposite poles. The aim is not one of turning the main character into a woman. This is more an issue of understanding a woman. We are not playing a woman, we are trying to create a female image, a character, so that we can reveal her soul. I doubt whether a soul can have a gender,” says Alvis Hermanis, the director. The premiere of this performance was held in 11 April 2006.

Awards:

Gundars Āboliņš, nominated best actor, *Small Scene Theatre Festival, Croatia, 2007.*

Critics Prize for the best production, *Kontakt International Festival, Poland 2007.*

Gundars Āboliņš, nominated best actor, *Kontakt International Festival, Poland, 2007.*

Audience Affinity Prize, *Baltic House International Festival, 2008.*

The New Riga Theatre (TNRT) is a professional repertory theatre, one that provides innovative levels of art which correspond both in its content and form to the requirements of the independently-thinking contemporary spectator. The artistic principles of TNRT include a quality that is highly professional, ethical, and aesthetic.

TNRT has been listed in the official programmes at all the major world theatre festivals. The artistic director of TNRT is **Alvis Hermanis**, who is often regarded as one of the best directors not just in Latvia, but also in Europe. His magic lies in his ability to communicate simple things in a way that makes them timeless.

www.jrt.lv



PHOTO: GINTS MÄLDERIS



A Portrait. Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica

25 February

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

BRIDGES TO BACH

Gidon Kremer, *violin*
Evgeny Koroliov, *piano*
Anna Vinnitskaya, *piano*
Ljupka Hadzigeorgieva, *piano*
Kremerata Baltica

Valentin Silvestrov, Homage to J.S.B.
for Violin and Echo Sounds

Giya Kancheli,
Bridges to Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach,
Piano Concerto in F Minor, BWV 1056
Piano Concerto in C Minor, BWV 1060
Intermission

Leonid Desyatnikov,
Sarabande in E Minor

Stevan Tickmayer,
Homage to Glenn Gould

Victor Kissine,
Aria from Bach Goldberg Variations
(from BWV 988)

Johann Sebastian Bach,
Concerto for Piano in D Minor
BWV 1052

Concerto for Three Pianos and
Orchestra in D Minor, BWV 1063



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN LUTZ

The programme is highly influenced by the recording released by *Nonesuch* in 2012, entitled *The Art of Instrumentation: Homage to Glenn Gould*. Gidon Kremer asked several contemporary composers to arrange string orchestral pieces that were a part of the repertoire of the famous interpreter of Bach, Glenn Gould. Works by V. Silvestrov, G. Kancheli, L. Desyatnikov, S. Tickmayer, or V. Kissine are giving the listener the opportunity to gain a different understanding of how J. S. Bach's music might sound today – a symbolical bridge between the classic past and the innovative present.

www.kremerataltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net

ALSO PERFORMING IN:

27 and 28 April 2015
Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

29 April 2015
Flagey, Brussels, www.flagey.be

11 May
Philharmonie Luxembourg
www.philharmonie.lu

26 February

Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Brussels
www.conservatoire.be

Gidon Kremer, *violin*
Giedrė Dirvanauskaitė, *violoncello*
Oleg Maisenberg, *piano*
Anna Vinnitskaya, *piano*
Madara Pētersone, *violin*
Džeraldas Bidva, *violin*
Santa Vižine, *viola*

Mieczysław Weinberg,
Sonata for Two Violins Op. 69
Alfred Schnittke,
Piano Quintet
Sergey Rachmaninov,
Piano Trio No. 2, Op. 9

The programme is about the works of three great twentieth century composers of the former Soviet Union. Mieczyslaw Weinberg – still an underrated and great Russo-Polish composer, whom the world is only just rediscovering. His works amaze the listener with an intrinsic power. Alfred Schnittke's Piano Quintet is memorable for its strong personal appeal: he was mourning the death of his mother. Sergey Rachmaninov's Elegiac Trio No. 2, Op. 9 is another piece of commemoration – to the great Russian composer, Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

www.kremerataltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net

27 February

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

GIDON KREMER'S BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Gidon Kremer, *violin*
Martha Argerich, *piano*
Alexei Mochalov, *bass*
Sergei Nakariakov, *trumpet*
Kremerata Baltica

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Overture to the *Abduction from the Seraglio* (arrangement for string orchestra and percussion)

Aleksandr Raskatov, *5 minutes in the life of W.A.M.* for violin and string orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/ Victor Kissine, Double Concerto for Violin, Piano and Orchestra (transcription of the flute/harp concerto KV.299)

Intermission

Dmitri Shostakovich,
Piano Concerto No.1, Op. 25
Anti-Formal Gallery (arrangement by Andrei Pushkarev)

The birthday evening of **Gidon Kremer**, best known for his original interpretations of classical works and unconventional programming, is marked by the

work of composers such as Mozart, to whom Gidon Kremer and *Kremerata Baltica* dedicated several recordings, including the Grammy Award winner *After Mozart (Nonesuch, 2001)*, and Shostakovich, a prominent figure in twentieth century music. A work by A. Raskatov provides a glimpse into Mozart's life, *5 minutes in the life by W.A.M.*, which beautifully preserves the sensibilities of the eighteenth century in a purely innocent manner.

www.kremerataltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net



PHOTO: KRISTAPS KALNS



Andris Nelsons and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

12 March 20:00

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be



© MARCO BORGGREVE

Andris Nelsons, *conductor*
Alexei Ogrintchouk, *oboe*
Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Overture (Cosi fan tutte,
KV 588)

Richard Strauss,
Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra

Dmitry Shostakovich,
Symphony No. 10, op. 93

The young Latvian conductor, **Andris Nelsons**, once referred to as ‘the new Karajan’, brings the house down in opera and concert halls alike. He guides the *Royal Concertgebouw* on a journey through the music of Mozart and Shostakovich and the Oboe Concerto that Richard Strauss composed at 81 years of age. This charming, melodic work is a real technical *tour de force* for oboists, and the Russian Alexei Ogrintchouk has agreed to take up the challenge.

Born in Riga in 1978 into a family of musicians, Andris Nelsons began his career as a trumpeter in the Latvian National Opera Orchestra before studying conducting. He was the principal conductor for the *Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie* in Herford, Germany, between 2006–2009 and musical director for the Latvian National Opera in 2003–2007.

Now Andris Nelsons is the newly appointed musical director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, starting from the 2014/2015 season. Nelsons has been critically acclaimed as music director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra since assuming that post in 2008; he remains at the helm of that orchestra until summer 2015.

www.andrisnelsons.com



Laima Jansone Trio: Zarbugans

15 March

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be



Artis Orubs, Laima Jansone, Andris Grunte.

Laima Jansone, *kokle*
Artis Orubs, *percussions*
Andris Grunte, *double bass*

"The interplay between a jazz musician and a folk musician in finding common ground cannot possibly be easy. Yet it allows one to step back from jazz standards..."

— **Ģirts Pavēnis**,
jazzmusic.lv

ALSO PERFORMING IN:

17 January
Studio 1, Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be

4 May
Neumünster Abbey, Luxembourg
www.ccrn.lu



The Trio first appeared on stage at the *Rīgas Ritmi* Festival in 2012, when the Latvian *kokle* folk instrument player, Laima Jansone, performed together with percussionist Artis Orubs and bassist Andris Grunte. They revealed a new melodic synthesis, one that was unique and uncommon to jazz music. *All About Jazz* called the project 'the find of the Festival', as well as foreseeing a prosperous future for it. During *Rīgas Ritmi 2013*, the audience had the chance to witness the Trio's new concert programme, *Zarbugans*, influenced by both jazz and folk. The Trio continued to impress with their unique synthesis of modern and traditional music, joined by the extraordinary stage layout and the visual presence of other musicians.

The musical message that is delivered by the Trio aims to overcome the limits set by their instruments, thereby disclosing a new and parallel universe, which Laima herself calls approaching a planet that is yet to be explored. *Zarbugans* is not only the name of the programme and the subsequent album, but also a unique, especially-created instrument. As with the mystical *kokle* and nuanced contrabass, the *Zarbugans* adds to the Trio's original and contrasting essence.

www.laimajansone.com



Ieva Epnere Solo Exhibition

1 April – 7 June

Opening 31 March

Espace Photographique Contretype, Brussels

www.contretype.org



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.

© IEVA EPNERE



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.

© IEVA EPNERE

"I had already visited Brussels several times and the city did not leave any impression on me. This time it was different. Having spent a month and-a-half at the *Contretype* artist residency, I had a completely different impression of Brussels. The range of feelings was rather wide, beginning with discomfort and loneliness and ending with an unexpected feeling of attachment to this city. The artist residency is like a psychological experiment. An artist is thrown in an environment of a totally different kind and then is expected to provide a reaction to this new environment.

I looked at Brussels as a waiting room for dreams and hopes. A great many people have arrived here from all around the world. Each of them has their own story and reason for being there. Very often, when walking around Brussels' parks and observing people, I noticed a vibration of loneliness and longing. I often met people who had come to read a book in solitude. The park turned in an open-air stage, one in which each visitor played a certain role. Children, too, when meeting other children, played some kind of role. So did the dog owners, who often started a conversation with other dog owners.



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.
© IEVA EPNERE



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.
© IEVA EPNERE

In my work, *Waiting Room*, the leading role is played by a young woman. She is a musician who has arrived in Brussels from abroad and lives here for professional purposes (due to her job). Through her I got to know the city, as well as several people close to her. This work is about loneliness and longing, as well as about hopes and other people, people who are next to you, and when they are needed the most. Often a random conversation or a shared walk in the park can mean a lot. In our busy everyday lives we do not even notice the subtle nuances and feelings of the people next to us. I am interested in the wordless dialogue among people, the fragile connection that we have with certain people in our lives."



Photograph from the series *Waiting room*, 2014.
© IEVA EPNERE



© KRISTAPS EPNERS

Ieva Epnere was born in 1977 in Latvia and she lives and works in Riga. She holds a Master of Arts in Visual Communication from the Art Academy of Latvia and is a Postgraduate (Laureate) of HISK, the Higher Institute for Fine Arts, Gent, Belgium.

www.ievaepnere.com



The Latvian Radio Choir and Lāčplēsis

24 April

Studio 4, Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be



Lilita Bērziņa as Laimdota/Mirdza Saulīte in the film *Lāčplēsis* (*Bear-slayer*, 1930, director Aleksandrs Rusteiķis).

COURTESY OF LAC RIGA FILM MUSEUM

Kristaps Pētersons,
contrabass, percussion
Andris Ūze, *sound engineer*
Sigvards Kļava, *project artistic director*

The authors of the music excerpts and episodes to be used are:

**L. Leibovics, E. Dārziņš, P. Barisons,
P. Vasks, R. Kronlaks, S. Ratniece,
M. Viļums, K. Pētersons, Ģ. Bišs,
V. Johansons, A. Peguševs**

The aim of the *Lāčplēsis* project (which means *The Bear-slayer*) is to reveal a specific piece of historical material – the film *Lāčplēsis* (1930) by Aleksandrs Rusteiķis, part of the Latvian cultural canon – in an emotional and nowadays relevant message, using contemporary choral music, vocal art and electronic music as means of expression.

The story takes place in two eras, the mythical time and the first part of the twentieth century, when Latvians were fighting for their freedom. The soundtrack also forms two parallel layers – it preserves the film's original track, incorporating the most outstanding examples of Latvian choral music of the first part of the twentieth century, and uses world renowned contemporary vocal music, respecting and accentuating the drama and style of the film.

The acoustic venue will synchronise the charm of live performance, original recordings of the film's soundtrack score by L. Leibovics, and electronic music sound patterns, interacting and thereby intensifying the expressiveness and topical nature of the film.

www.radiokoris.lv



The Latvian Radio Choir and BL!NDMAN Saxophone Quartet

26 April

Studio 4, Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be



COURTESY OF THE LATVIAN RADIO CHOIR

Sigvards Kļava, *conductor*

Jonathan Harvey,
Mortuos Plango,
Vivos Voco

Orlando Di Lasso,
Sibylline Prophecies (extracts)

Erkki Sven Tüür,
Meditation

Orlando Di Lasso,
Omnia tempus Habent

Jēkabs Nīmanis,
Das selige Stillschweigen, the premiere

Johann Sebastian Bach,
Motet *Jesu, Meine Freude*

The Latvian Presidency's cultural programme pays host to an encounter between two of the most peculiar contemporary music interpreters – the **BL!NDMAN saxophone quartet** and the **Latvian Radio Choir**. Their daily concert life is characterised by searches for novel combinations of sonorous expression and new creative friends.

The concert programme is based upon the merging of the instrument and the voice in one musical sound pattern, joining together the most characteristic trends from the Polyphonic Era and contemporary music. The polyphonic music allows new relationships between the human voice and a musical instrument to be sought out and encouraged, something that is brought further to the fore and perfected by modern compositions.

The programme's foundation is the motet by Bach, *Jesu Meine Freude*, a musical and ideological perfection; along with a masterpiece of contemporary electronic music, *Mortuos Plango, Vivos Voco* by the legendary Jonathan Harvey. The concert will also include a special dedication to both ensembles by Latvian composer Jēkabs Nīmanis.

www.radiokoris.lv
www.blindman.be

APRIL



A Portrait. Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica

27 April

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

Gidon Kremer, *violin*
Mischa Maisky, *violoncello*
Kremerata Baltica

Aleksandr Raskatov,
The Seasons Digest (after
Tchaikovsky)

Pyotr Tchaikovsky,
Variations on a Rococo Theme
for Cello and Orchestra,
Op. 33
String Sextet in D Minor *Souvenir
de Florence*, Op. 70

ALSO PERFORMING IN:

25 and 27 February
Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels
www.bozar.be

26 February
Royal Conservatory of Brussels
www.conservatoire.be



PHOTO: ANDREAS MALKMUS

An evening dedicated to praise Pyotr Tchaikovsky's music. String Sextet in D Minor *Souvenir de Florence* was written while Tchaikovsky was visiting Florence in Italy and was inspired more by the country's sunny climate than by Italian music. Later on, the work was revised in Russia, which can be felt in the last two movements which pulsate with Russian character. This special arrangement for violoncello and string orchestra brings together *Kremerata Baltica* and one other native from the Baltics – the great Latvian cellist, Misha Maisky. Raskatov's *The Seasons Digest* is a re-working of Tchaikovsky's piano cycle, *The Seasons Op. 37a*, for a string orchestra, violin solo, percussion and prepared piano (this time replaced with a violoncello).

www.kremeratabaltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net
www.mischamaisky.com

28 April

Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels

www.bozar.be

Gidon Kremer, *violin*
Daniil Trifonov, *piano*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Fantasy for Piano Solo

Mieczyslaw Weinberg,
Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 5

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Sonata for Violin and Piano
in E Flat Major KV 481

Intermission

Mieczyslaw Weinberg,
Sonata No. 3,
Op. 126 for Violin Solo

Franz Schubert, Fantasy
in C Major for Violin and Piano

Mieczyslaw Weinberg is a recently discovered twentieth century Russo-Polish composer. Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 5 was the first work to be written after the composer's release from Lubyanka Prison, where he spent almost three months. Thus it depicts a variety of emotions: isolation, disappointment, longing for freedom, hope... Meanwhile Weinberg's Sonata No. 3, Op. 126 for Violin Solo is an exceptionally complex and mysterious work.

Franz Schubert rounds off the programme with Fantasy in C Major. The piece is thought to be the most technically challenging composition by Schubert both for the violinist and pianist.

www.kremerataltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net

29 April

Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be

NEW SEASONS

Gidon Kremer, *leader, violin*
Kremerata Baltica

Leonid Desyatnikov,
The Russian Seasons

Philip Glass,
Violin Concerto No. 2 *The American*
Four Seasons
(with video projections)

After the very successful project, *Eight seasons* (Antonio Vivaldi and Astor Piazzolla), *Kremerata Baltica* presents a new set of works that are coloured by the seasons by coupling together pieces that are related to Russian and American cultures. Desyatnikov's *The Russian Seasons* demonstrates Russian character, respecting its traditions, and is based on Russian folk songs. Philip Glass' new composition represents American culture with its liberalities. The work will be accompanied with video projections by Jonas Mekas, – a filmmaker, poet and artist of Lithuanian origin, who has often been called the godfather of American avant-garde cinema, along with the young video artist Rimas Sakalauskas, Adam Magyar, a prominent figure in media arts, and Pingo van der Brinkloef, a digital artist from Denmark.

www.kremerataltica.com
www.gidonkremer.net

APRIL



Photo exhibition “25 Moments”

The most memorable moments in the history of Latvia from the regaining of independence to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1990–2015)

6 May – 10 May

European Parliament, Brussels
www.europarl.europa.eu



PHOTO: GUNĀRS JANAITIS

Each moment of joy, surprise, anger, sorrow or pride leaves a mark in our soul. Emotions fade over time, but the impression left by each moment remains and changes us forever.

Those twenty-five years, since Latvia regained its independence on 4 May 1990, have been full of memorable moments that have filled the Latvian people with both pride and joy

for their state, as well as regret for the state's indifference to the fate of its inhabitants. During these years we had to prove our equality as members of the European family of nations, and we had to acknowledge that there is still much to do in order for Latvia to become a success story for all of its children.

The photo exhibition *25 Moments*, a project of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia devoted to the 25th anniversary of the restoration of Latvia's independence will be opened to the public in Latvia and Brussels on May 2015. The exhibition will be on display in Riga's Dome Square during the entire month of May, while the ceremonial opening of the exhibition in the European Parliament is scheduled for 6 May as part of other special events devoted to the restoration of Latvia's independence. The general public will have access to the exhibition on 9 May, which is the Open Doors Day at the European Parliament. Thereafter, the exhibition will be on display at Latvia's diplomatic missions abroad. The curator of the exhibition is photographer Ilmārs Znotiņš.

It is hard to express in words who we are today and why we are this way. Sometimes a moment captured in a photograph conveys much more. We want Latvia to be understood and recognised; therefore, we are sharing our story, convinced that it will not leave Europe indifferent.



PHOTO: ILMĀRS ZNOTIŅŠ



PHOTO: KRISTĀPS KALINS



PHOTO: ILMĀRS ZNOTIŅŠ



Iveta Apkalna: The Splendour of Organ

4 June

20:00

The Cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula, Brussels

www.cathedralestmichel.be

In the programme of the Bozar Centre for Fine Arts

www.bozar.be



PHOTO: NILS VILNIS

Franz Liszt, *Funérailles (Harmonies poétiques et religieuses, S. 173)*

Thierry Escaich, *Évocation I*

Johann Sebastian Bach,
Fantasia, BWV 572

Thierry Escaich, *Évocation II*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
Fantasia, KV 608

Thierry Escaich, *Évocation III*

Franz Liszt, *Saint François de Paule
marchant sur les flots*

Over the past few years **Iveta Apkalna** has succeeded in 'wiping off the dust' from the queen of all musical instruments and establishing a new reputation for the organ. Through her compelling performances, technical brilliance, and charismatic stage presence, she has made it her mission to bring the splendour of organ music beyond the church walls and into the concert halls.

Iveta Apkalna, as a soloist and also performing with some of the world's top orchestras, appears in concerts throughout the world, shining in prestigious concert halls and the leading festivals around Europe. In 2005 she became the first organist ever to receive *ECHO Klassik* as the "Best Performing Artist". In the 2014–2015 season, Ms Apkalna performs with the Berlin Radio Symphony under Marek Janowski, and with the Liège and Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestras among others.

www.apkalna.com



Baiba Skride & Friends

15 June 20:00

Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Brussels

www.conservatoire.be

In the programme of the *Bozar Centre for Fine Arts*

www.bozar.be



© MARCO BORGREVE

Baiba Skride, Gergana Gergova,
violin

Brett Dean, Nils Monkemeyer,
alto

Alban Gerhardt, *cello*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,
String Quintet, KV 614

Brett Dean, Epitaphs

Johannes Brahms,
String Quintet No. 2, op. 111

*"It was a typical Skride performance:
passionate and risk-taking."*

— *The Guardian*, 21 October 2013

The Latvian violinist, **Baiba Skride**, performs in the company of three highly talented musicians in a programme of string quintets that spans three centuries and three eras: Classicism in the case of Mozart, Romanticism with Brahms, and contemporary music by the Australian composer, Brett Dean, born in 1961.

Baiba Skride's natural approach to her music-making has endeared her to some of today's most important conductors and orchestras worldwide. Following her debut at the BBC *Proms* with the Oslo Philharmonic and Vasily Petrenko with Szymanowski Concerto No.1, Geoff Brown in *The Times* noted, "Latvian violinist Baiba Skride sailed over the orchestra's magic forest with long lines of melody, silver and sweet." Skride plays the Stradivarius "Ex Baron Feilitzsch" violin (1734), which is generously on loan to her from Gidon Kremer.

www.baibaskride.com



Closing Event of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

16 June

20:15

Studio 4, Flagey, Brussels
www.flagey.be

Latvian Radio Big Band, Maestro Raimonds Pauls and Kristīne Prauliņa

"Just played with the amazing Latvian Radio Big Band! These guys (and gal) can hold their own with any big band on the planet! Great section work and sound, killer soloists and swingin' rhythm section! You can't ask for more than that!"

— Randy Brecker



Latvian Radio Big Band.

The **Latvian Radio Big Band** has been revived after a sixteen year break and the new creative team behind it consists of composer and pianist, Maestro Raimonds Pauls, producer and jazz musician Māris Briežkalns, and conductor, jazz performer, and saxophonist Kārlis Vanags. Since 2012, the big band has performed together with world-class artists, including Roberta Gambarini, Kurt Elling, Jojo

Mayer, *New York Voices*, Randy Brecker, and James Morrison. In this project, the team will perform jazz classics and also new melodies, some of them specifically composed for the young jazz and gospel singer Kristīne Prauliņa's voice, as well as special arrangements of both old and new pieces. They will also perform special arrangements of Georgian composer Giya Kancheli's film melodies.

The distinguished writer of Latvian popular and jazz music, pianist **Maestro Raimonds Pauls**, is one of the most famous composers not only in Latvia, but also far beyond its borders. His music has been performed in countless countries and in the most prestigious concert halls, and all of this has been possible thanks to his unique flair for melody. The fertile, creative imagination of the Maestro has brought together the intonations of Latvian folk music, jazz, blues, rock'n'roll, French chanson, German schlager, and the intonations and elements of national popular songs, mixing them with newest trends. He always manages to create contemporary and generally attractive music that is at the same time thoroughly democratic. His music is characterised by modern rhythms and arrangements, but a fine feeling of harmony allows the composer to avoid the monotony that plagues many modern pieces of pop music. Unlike many

www.raimondspauls.lv



Pianist, composer **Maestro Raimonds Pauls**.

other songwriters, Raimonds Pauls himself is often the interpreter of his own compositions or the concert master for other performers. A hallmark of his sound is a very individual, short and accurately-courted stroke that is a distinct characteristic of his style. But he is not afraid to entrust his melodies to the interpretation of other creative groups or to form special bands of performers and produce the sound of his music by himself.



Vocalist **Kristine Prauliņa**.

Kristine Prauliņa has performed in Latvia and elsewhere as a soloist, together with the Riga Gospel Choir and also with various jazz, blues and pop bands. A winner of the street sports and culture movement festival and vocal competition, *Ghetto Games 2013*, as a prize she received the opportunity to film a video in New York. Kristine also won the Grand Prix at the International Jazz Artist Contest, *Riga Jazz Stage 2014*.



Presidency Culture Programme in Luxembourg

25 November 18:30

**Fashion brand *Mareunrol's*: talk
"The Art of Fashion" and exhibition**

Casino Luxembourg
www.casino-luxembourg.lu

15 January – 15 February

**Photo exhibition *Bird's Eye View of
Latvia* (photographer Juris Kalniņš)**

House of Europe
7 rue du Marché-aux-Herbes
L-2920 Luxembourg

5 March – 31 March

**Photo exhibition *The Landscapes of
Latvia***

Court of Justice of the European Union
Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
Kirchberg, L-2925

March

**Film "Anthology of the Awakening",
discussion with Member of
European Parliament Sandra
Kalniete and the Judge of the Court
of Justice of the EU Egils Levits**

Court of Justice of the European Union
Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
Kirchberg, L-2925

22 April 20:00

**The Latvian organist Iveta Apkalna
and Gabor Boldoczki (trumpet)**

Philharmonie Luxembourg
www.philharmonie.lu

11 May

**Gidon Kremer and *Kremerata
Baltica***

Philharmonie Luxembourg
philharmonie.lu



3 – 10 May

3 May

**Latvian contemporary dance
event within the framework of the
monthly programme of 3CL: *Latvju
raksti (Cross crosses)* by Krišjānis
Sants (dancer-choreographer) and
Laima Jansone (*kokle*)**

With the participation of dancers
from Latvia and Luxembourg, video
and photo installations related to
the contemporary dance projects
in Latvia, some Latvian national
costumes and Latvian food tasting.
BananneFabrik
www.banannefabrik.lu

4 May

**Laima Jansone Trio: Laima Jansone
(electro-acoustic *kokle*,
kantele, voice), Andris Grunte
(double-bass, electric bass),
Artis Orubs (drums, zarbugans,
vibraphone, electric pad)**

After the concert: reception and
Latvian folk dance evening with
the participation of dancer and
choreographer Krišjānis Sants and
folklore group *Dzērves*.
Agora, Neumünster Abbey
www.ccrn.lu

4 May – 8 June

Official opening 7 May

**Exhibition *What Else Does Amber
Have in Mind?***

Neumünster Abbey
www.ccrn.lu

RIGA 2014

Latvian Culture Week in Luxembourg

4 May – 18 May

Official opening 7 May

**Photo exhibition *Sun Stone* by
Andris Zēgners**

Neumünster Abbey

www.ccrn.lu

5 May

***Trio Colorato* (musicians
from Latvia, Italy and
Luxembourg)**

The Music Conservatory of
Luxembourg

www.conservatoire.lu

6 or 8 May

A Latvian theatre production

Neumünster Abbey

www.ccrn.lu

7 May

**VIP opening of the Latvian
culture week. The opening of
all exhibitions and a musical
performance**

Chapel, Neumünster Abbey

www.ccrn.lu

7 May – 4 June

**Exhibition *Signs of the Latvian Soul
in National Costumes, Music, Songs
and Dances***

Neumünster Abbey, Salles voutees

www.ccrn.lu

8 May

**Latvian duo *Art&Valt* (piano and
cello) performs with Belgian
singer *Lara Bellerose***

Neumünster Abbey

www.ccrn.lu

9 May

**It is the Europe Day, and Latvia –
the country of honour**

Musical performances by Latvian folk
group *Dzērves*, jazz trio and Latvian
choir *Meluzīna* as well as Latvian food
tasting.

Place Clairefontaine

10 May

Kristīne Prauliņa & Trio

Neumünster Abbey, Brasserie

www.ccrn.lu



Presidency Culture Programme in Strasbourg

12-18 January

**Photo exhibition of Latvian
architecture and landscape**

Louise Weiss building
Allée du Printemps
67070 Strasbourg

9 June

**Concert of the Latvian pianist
Reinis Zariņš and Strasbourg
Philharmonic Orchestra.**

Conductor: Ainārs Rubiķis
Cité de la musique et de la danse
1, place Dauphine, Strasbourg



9– 15 February

“Latvian Days” in Strasbourg

Exhibition of the Art Academy of Latvia “Breakfast in Europe”.
PHOTO: INESE KUNDZIŅA

The European Parliamentary Association

www.ape-europa.eu

9 February

**Opening of the exhibition
Breakfast in Europe (Art Academy
of Latvia)**

European Parliamentary Association
76, Allée de la Robertsau, Strasbourg

11 February

**Concert of the Latvian accordionist
Ksenija Sidorova**

Salle du Münsterhof
9, rue des Juifs, Strasbourg

The Presidency Culture Programme for Belgium, Luxembourg and Strasbourg

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