

PRESERVATION OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE TURAIDA MUSEUM RESERVE. LATVIA

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The Turaida Museum Reserve



**Turaida Museum Reserve is located 50 km from capital Riga and 5 km from Sigulda
in the territory of Gauja National Park and Vidzeme region**

Specially protected cultural monument Turaida Museum Reserve is a unique cultural and historic site of Latvia and an important European cultural tourism attraction.

The Turaida Museum Reserve mission is the creation of a harmonious society, showing the Latvian lifestyle development and the universal human values with the millennium accumulated natural and cultural heritage of the regional and historical centre of Turaida.

During the years of its activity the Turaida Museum Reserve has accumulated a considerable experience in preservation and popularization of intangible cultural heritage.



Folk-song Park – Folk-song Hill (Dainu Hill) and Folk-song Garden

26 sculptures made by Indulis Ranka is a story about Latvian wisdom of life, folksongs and Krišjānis Barons who collected and systematized them.

Along with Folk-song Garden, which was developed in further years, it forms the Folk-song Park where in the course of years hundreds of ethnographical and folk groups have performed.

In 1996 Folk-song Park was included in the register of World Sculpture Gardens in Washington.



Beginning

The author of the idea and the head of the working group is Anna Jurkāne, director of the Turaida Museum Reserve.

Photo. Mrs. A. Jurkane in the Award Ceremony of European Museum of the Year Award, 1996



Folk-song Park was open in 1985

As the Third Latvian Renaissance approached in the mid-1980s, Folk-song Park was the place where the Latvian Singing Revolution emerged and continued until restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991.

Today Folk-song Hill is a symbol for the Singing Revolution, sending an eternal message about the strength of song and the self-respect of Latvian people.

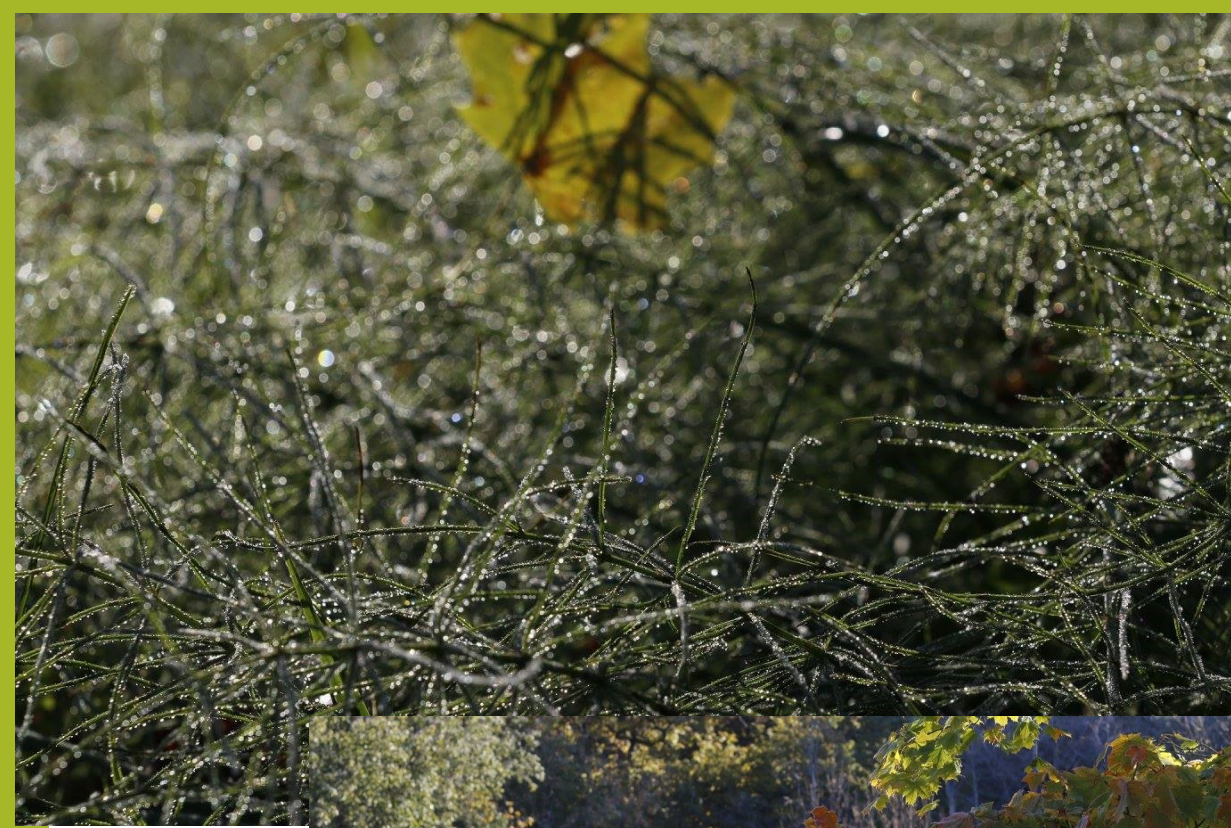
*Photo. Opening of Folk-song Park,
07.07.1985*













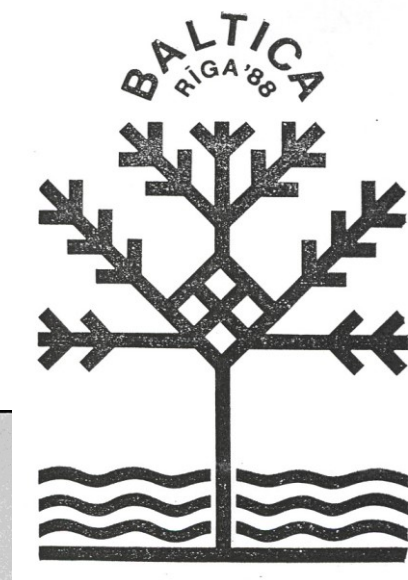
Internationale folklore festival «BALTICA»

In 1987, for the first time the Festival was organized in Lithuania.

In Latvia, one year later – in 1988.

In spite of the fact that each year the venues of the International Festival „Baltica” in Latvia have changed - it has been organized in Vidzeme, Kurzeme, Latgale and Zemgale, always it was held in Riga – in the capital of Latvia.

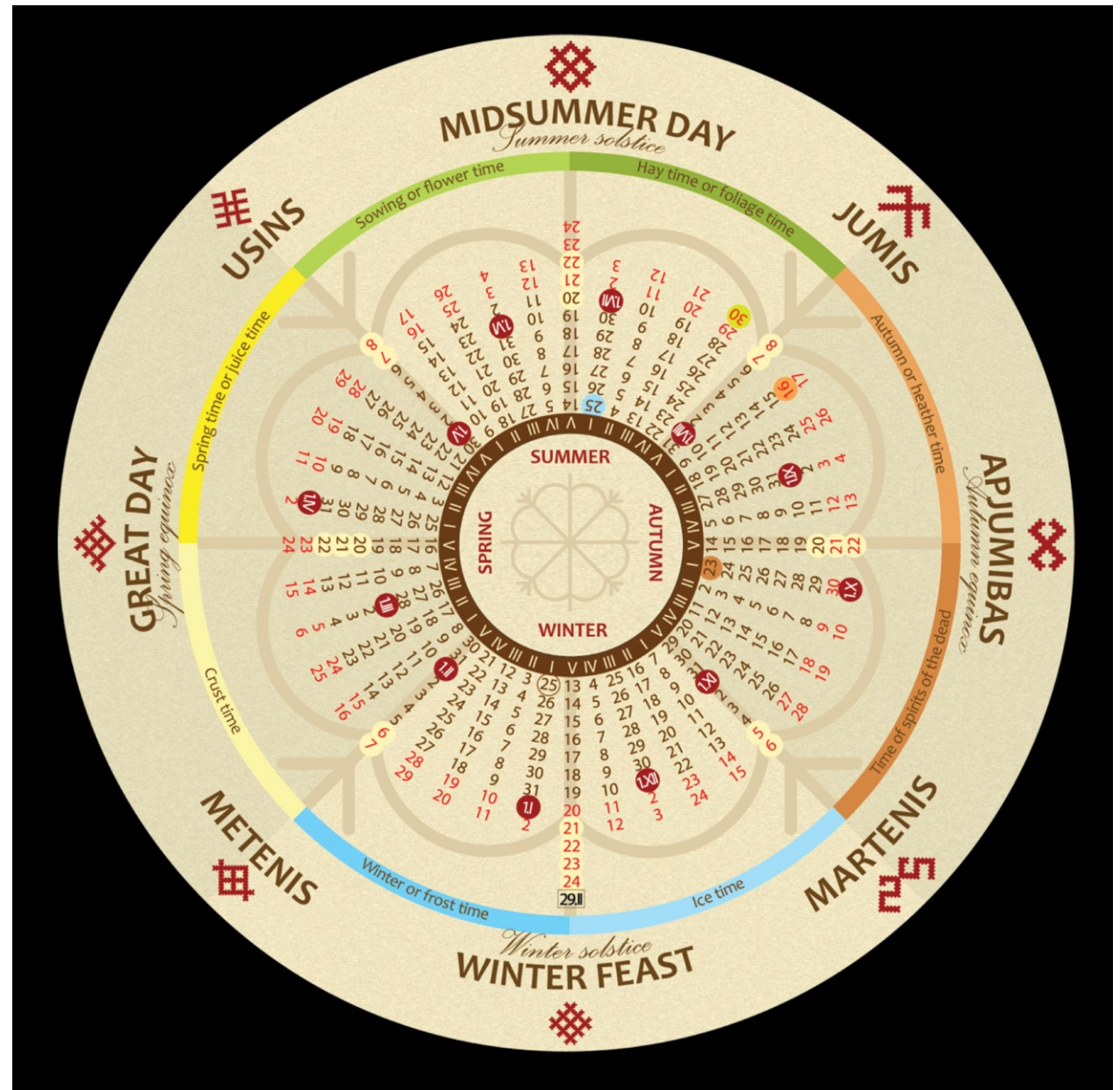
According to the wishes of participants, the festival venues have been invariably organized also in Turaida, on the Hill of Dainas (Folk-songs), in that way acknowledging it as a place of national identity, where have been transmitted skills of traditional singing, music making and dancing and cultivated national customs and traditions.





Latvian annual celebrations

Latvian Folklore Celebrations are a constituent part of traditional culture, rich in various traditions, rituals and activities, the main task of which is to be in unity with nature, to facilitate generosity and reject evil, to be thankful for what has been acquired and achieved as well as to provide fertility and good harvest for the following year.



METENIS - Shrovetide carnival in Turaida



GREAT DAY - Easter according to national traditions



MARTENIS - The Martin's Day according to national tradition, marking the end of autumn and the beginning of winter



Summer Solstice celebration

The most visited in Turaida Museum Reserve is Summer Solstice Celebration on June 21, when in unity with nature participants take part in ancient fire rituals, praise the sun in the songs and sing Līgo songs. The whole night is celebrated as the shortest night of the year together with folklore groups from different parts of Latvia and together with foundation „Māras loks”.





Legend about Maija – the Rose of Turaida

Trees on the Church hill encircle the ancient burial site, where were buried local inhabitants. In the course of time all graves disappeared, except memorial tomb to Maija Greif, a maiden from Turaida, arranged under centenarian linden tree.

Her life history turned into a legendary story about the Rose of Turaida. This legend is based on the documents, published by Magnus von Wolffeldt, in 1848, about the murder of Maija Greif at Gūtmanis Cave on August 6, 1620.



Traditional craftsmanship

For several years already the Turaida Museum Reserve, in reply to the invitation of Latvian National Cultural Centre, has been taking part in the campaign "Meet your master!" during which a blacksmith Andris Ščeglovs shows round the premises of the Turaida smithy, acquaints with ancient and present-day tools, tells about secrets of blacksmith's craft and his experience, as well as demonstrates his forging skills.



Thank you!



Welcome in Turaida!