

GUNDEGA ŠMITE

ES, KARĀ AIZIEDAMS ❄ AS I GO OFF TO WAR

Dainu kamermistērija © Folksong mystery




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GUNDEGA ŠMITE

The chamber, symphonic and choral music composed by Gundega Šmite is regularly performed in Latvia and abroad. She has collaborated with such ensembles as the radio choirs of Latvia, Berlin and Sweden, the BBC Singers, the Stockholm Saxophone Quartet, the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Lucilin (Belgium), BIT20 Ensemble (Norway) and others. However, her main creative interest is the interaction between text and music, which was the topic of her doctoral dissertation. Šmite also teaches at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music.



The *dainas* (folksong) chamber mystery “As I go off to war...” is a story about the soul’s battle – about the soldier’s courage to leave and the woman’s strength in letting him go towards the unknown. I have interwoven an unanswered, and perhaps unanswerable, question in this story, namely, who of us is prepared to risk our life and happiness in the name of a larger idea? As the rich heritage of Latvian folk poetry confirms, such a thought has preoccupied Latvians for centuries. These countless verses express the human frailties that surface when a young man is called to war. A woman

stands next to him, be it a mother, sister or bride, and reacts bitterly to his departure and absence. “As I go off to war...” does not provide an answer to whether it is worth sacrificing one’s life to the war machine. It does not glorify heroism; on the contrary, it reveals the fragile internal world of humans that is destroyed in war.

Through my music and the poetic language of the *dainas* I have aspired to express a poignantly human and undoubtedly pacifist message. The musical frame centering on the mythical blacksmith’s wife points to the cyclical and ever-renewing nature of

war. Will a new era arrive, in which we look back at the horrors of war as a thing of the past that the strength of the human spirit has defeated?

“As I go off to war...” is a cyclical composition in ten parts that follows the path of a soldier: farewells, absence, return. The first and last parts serve as a seemingly timeless introduction and postlude. The structure of the cycle is linked together by four electronic interludes that act as transitions to each next stage. The music reflects the unique style of the Arcandela ensemble, which performs a fusion of folk, jazz and

classical music. The *dainas* texts inspired me to create an acoustic world in which I strived to bring together an archaic and contemporary palette of sound.

The *dainas* chamber mystery “As I go off to war...” is dedicated to the souls that have been and continue to be extinguished by senseless war.

It provides solace to hearts broken while waiting for sons, brothers, husbands to return but never meeting them again.

The core of human strength expressed in Latvian folk poetry lives across time, space and nationality.

Composer **Gundega Šmite**

Founded in 2015, **ARCANDELA** unites six professional musicians representing different musical genres who together form a unique musical phenomenon in Latvian cultural life. The ensemble's mix of classical chamber music, jazz, traditional music and opera blurs boundaries to merge into a single whole.

Arcandela consists of Aiga Bokanova (voice), Kārlis Saržants (voice), Rihards Plešanovs (piano), Oskars Bokanovs (double bass), Rolands Zelčs or Māris Rozenfelds (accordion) and Liene Brence (violin). The ensemble's repertoire includes original compositions, traditional music from a variety of cultures arranged by the ensemble and also contemporary Latvian music.



AIGA BOKANOVA
SOPRANO

Aiga Bokanova is an ethnomusicologist, singer and cimbalom player. She has participated in various musical projects together with ethnomusicologists and jazz musicians, has sung solo with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and the Latvian Radio Choir, and has also participated in theatre productions and film soundtrack recordings.

KĀRLIS SARŽANTS
BASS-BARITONE

Kārlis Saržants is an opera singer and vocal pedagogue. He is an artist and soloist as well as vocal pedagogue with the Latvian National Opera Choir. His opera repertoire includes more than forty solo roles, and he also regularly participates in various other musical projects.

LIENE BRENCE
VIOLIN

Liene Brence is a violinist and ethnomusicologist whose main creative interest lies in traditional techniques and styles of violin playing. In addition to traditional music, Brence also participates in various Baroque and early music projects.

OSKARS BOKANOVŠ
DOUBLE BASS


Oskars Bokanovs is the principal of the double bass group at the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and a member of the Riga Double Bass Quartet. He also performs solo and has won several international double bass competitions. Bokanovs has played with the Latvian National Opera Orchestra as well as Kremerata Baltica.

MĀRIS ROZENFELDS
ACCORDION

Māris Rozenfelds is an accordionist with a particular interest in contemporary music. He has performed solo programmes and has been a soloist with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonietta Rīga chamber orchestra and other orchestras. He also plays in various chamber music programmes.

RIHARDS PLEŠANOVŠ
PIANO

Very versatile pianist has performed with various orchestras as well as the Latvian Radio Choir. In the genre of chamber music he performs with the Quadra piano quartet and as a solo artist. He has a particular interest in the music of the 20th and 21st centuries. As a finalist and winner of several international piano competitions, Plešanovs has performed solo concerts throughout Europe.



Dainu kamermistērija “Es, karā aiziedams...” ir stāsts par dvēseles cīņu – par karavīra drosmi aiziet un sievietes spēku viņu palaist pretī nezināmajam. Savā darbā ieviju neatbildētu un, iespējams, neatbildamu jautājumu – kurš no mums gatavs riskēt ar savu dzīvību un laimi lielākas idejas vārdā? Kā liecina bagātīgais latvju dainu mantojums, latvieši par to domājuši jau gadsimtiem.

Daudzās dainās paustas cilvēciskas izjūtas, kas uzmuļo brīdī, kad

jauns vīrietis tiek iesaukts karā. Viņam blakus ir sieviete – māte, māsa, līgava –, un viņa skaudri reaģē uz karavīra aiziešanu un prombūtni. Dainu kamermistērija “Es, karā aiziedams...” nedod atbildi uz jautājumu, vai ir vērts savu dzīvību atdot kara mašīnērijai. Tā neslavina varonību, bet atklāj trauslo cilvēka iekšējo pasauli, kas salūzt kara ceļos. Caur dainu poētisko valodu un savu mūziku tiecos paust skaudri cilvēcīgu un neapšaubāmi

pacifistiskas ievirzes vēstījumu.

Dainu kamermistērija “Es, karā aiziedams...” ir izvērsta, cikliska kompozīcija 10 daļās, kurā iezīmēts karavīra ceļš: atvadas, prombūtne un mājupeļš.

Skaņdarba muzikālais ietvars – Ievads un Postlūdija, kas atspoguļo mītisko kaļva sievu, norāda uz mūžīgi ciklisko kara iedabu. Tās ierāmē ārpuslaicīgās noskaņās ieturēti ievads un postlūdija. Izvērstā cikla struktūru sastīgo četras elektroniskas inter-

mēdijas kā nelielas pārejas uz nākamo etapu.

Dainu kamermistērija “Es, karā aiziedams...” ir veltījums tām dvēselēm, kuru dzīvības izdzēsis un joprojām dzēš bezjēdzīgs karš.

Tas ir mierinājums sirdīm, kuras salauztas, gaidot un nesagaidot mājās savus dēlus, brāļus un līgavaiņus.

Latvju dainās atklātais cilvēcības kodols dzīvo pāri laikiem, telpai un tautībai.

Komponiste
Gundega Šmite



GUNDEGA ŠMITE

Komponistes Gundegas Šmites kamerdarbi, simfoniskā mūzika un kormūzika tiek atskaņota gan Latvijā, gan ārvalstīs. Viņa ir sadarbojusies ar Berlīnes, Zviedrijas Radio koriei, *BBC Singers*, Stokholmas Saksofonu kvartetu, Latvijas Nacionālo simfonisko orķestri, *Ensemble Lucilin* (Beļģija), *BIT20* (Norvēģija) u. c.

Komponistes dziļākā radošā interese saistīta ar teksta un mūzikas mijiedarbi – par šo tēmu viņa ir izstrādājusi doktora disertāciju.

Gundega Šmite ir arī Jāzepa Vītola Latvijas Mūzikas akadēmijas mācībspēks.

Ansambļis **ARCANDELA** dibināts 2015. gadā un apvieno sešus profesionālus dažādu mūzikas žanru pārstāvjus, kas kopā veido Latvijas mūzikas dzīvē nebijušu muzikālo vienību. Klasiskā kamermuzicēšana, džezs, tradicionālā mūzika, operdziedāšana saplūst vienotā veselumā, nojaucot žanru robežas. *Arcandela* sastāvā muzicē Aiga Bokanova (balsis), Kārlis Saržants (balsis), Rihards Plešanovs (klavieres), Oskars Bokanovs (kontrabass), Liene Brence (vijole), Rolands Zelčs un Māris Rozenfelds (akordeons). Ansambļa repertuārā ir *Arcandela* dalībnieku oriģinālkompozīcijas, dažādu tautu tradicionālās mūzikas melodijas grupas dalībnieku aranžijās, kā arī latviešu laikmetīgā mūzika.



AIGA BOKANOVA *SOPRĀNS*

Aiga Bokanova ir etnomuzikoloģe – dziedātāja un cimbaliste. Aiga ir piedalījies vairākos muzikālos projektos kopā ar etnomuzikologiem un džeza mūziķiem, dziedājusi solo ar Latvijas Nacionālo simfonisko orķestri, Latvijas Radio kori, kā arī piedalījies teātra izrādēs un filmu skaņu celiņu ieskaņošanā.

KĀRLIS SARŽANTS *BASSBARITONS*

Kārlis Saržants ir operdziedātājs un vokālais pedagogs. Kārlis ir Latvijas Nacionālās Operas solists, kora mākslinieks, vokālais pedagogs. Operā iestudējis vairāk nekā 40 lomas, kā arī regulāri piedalījies dažādos muzikālos projektos.

LIENE BRENCĒ *VIJOLE*

Liene Brence ir vijolniece un etnomuzikoloģe. Viņas radošās intereses degpunktā ir tradicionālās vijolspēles tehniku un stilu izpēte. Piedalījies gan tradicionālās mūzikas, gan arī baroka un senās mūzikas projektos.

OSKARS BOKANOVS *KONTRABASS*

Oskars Bokanovs ir Latvijas Nacionālā simfoniskā orķestra kontrabasu grupas koncertmeistars un Rīgas Kontrabasu kvarteta dalībnieks. Uzstājas arī kā solo mākslinieks un bijis vairāku starptautisku kontrabasistu konkursu laureāts. Ir muzicējis gan Latvijas Nacionālās operas orķestrī, gan kamerorķestrī Kremerata Baltica.

MĀRIS ROZENFELDS *ACCORDEONS*

Māris Rozenfelds ir akordeonists, kuru īpaši aizrauj laikmetīgās mūzikas atskaņošana. Iestudējis gan solo programmas, gan spēlējis ar Latvijas Nacionālo simfonisko orķestri, kamerorķestri Sinfonietta Rīga u. c. orķestriem. Muzicē arī dažādās kameramūzikas programmās.

RIHARDS PLEŠANOVS *KLAVIERES*

Rihards Plešanovs ir plaša spektra pianists. Vairākkārt iestudējis koncertprogrammas sadarbībā ar dažādiem orķestriem, kā arī Latvijas Radio kori. Kamermūzikas sfērā darbojas kā solists un klavieru kvarteta *Quadra* pianists. Īpaši pievērš uzmanību 20./21. gadsimta mūzikai. Būdams vairāku starptautisku pianistu konkursu laureāts, viņš ir sniedzis solokonzertus daudzās Eiropas valstīs.

Dainu kamermistērija
ES, KARĀ AIZIEDAMS...



Folksong mystery
AS I GO OFF TO WAR...

I IEVADS: Kur tecēsi, mēnestiņi?

Kur tecēsi, mēnestiņi,
Ar to zvaigžņu pudurīti?
– Karā eimu, karā teku
jaunu puišu palīgā.

**I INTRODUCTION:
Where are you going, dear moon?**

Where are you going, dear moon,
With the cluster of stars?
– I'm going to war, into battle,
To help the young men.

II Zīle brēca

Zīle brēca, zīle brēca
Vārtu staba galiņā,
Iesim, meitas, klausīties,
Kādu ziņu zīle nesa.
Zīle nesa tādu ziņu:
Būs puisiem karā iet.

Tec, māsiņa, dārziņā,
Pušķo brāļa cepurīti!
Dziedādama appušķoju,
Raudādama izvadīju.
Vienu roku vārtus vēru,
Otru slauku asariņas.

II The titmouse calls

The titmouse calls
At the top of the gatepost,
Let us go, girls, and listen
To what news it brings.
The titmouse announces:
The young men must go to war.

Go in the garden, dear sister,
And decorate your brother's cap.
I sang as I decorated it,
I wept as I bid farewell.
I opened the gate with one hand,
I wiped away my tears with the other.





III Lai ziedēja vainadziņš

[Līgava:]
Kad tu biji kara vīrs,
Kam tu mani bildināji?

[Karavīrs:]
Es, karā aiziedams,
Atpakaļ lūkojos.

[Līgava:]
Kam tu mani bildināji,
Kam noņēmi vainadziņu?

[Karavīrs:]
Kura meita gauži raud,
Tā būs mana līgaviņa.

[Līgava:]
Es būt' savu vainadziņu
Pie māmiņas valkājuse,
Pie māmiņas valkājuse,
Iemetusi rozītēs.

[Visi:]
Lai ziedēja vainadziņis
Līdz citāmi rozītēm,
Līdz citāmi rozītēm,
Līdz citāmi rudenim.

III May the crown of flowers bloom

[Bride:]
If you're a soldier,
Why did you ask my hand in marriage?

[Soldier:]
As I go off to war,
I look back at those who bid farewell.

[Bride:]
Why did you ask my hand in marriage,
Why did you remove my crown of flowers?

[Soldier:]
The girl who weeps sorrowfully,
She will be my bride.

[Bride:]
I would have worn my crown of flowers
At my mother's home,
At my mother's home,
And thrown it into the rose bush.

[All:]
May the crown of flowers bloom
Until a new year,
Until a new year,
Until a new autumn.

IV Div' baloži strautā dzēra

Div' baloži strautā dzēra
Abi dzēra dūdodami;
Div' bāliņi karā jāja,
Abi jāja domādami,

Vaj būs jā(i), vaj nejāt(i),
Vaj palikt'i Kurzemē.
Kurzemē laba dzīve,
Jaunas meitas gultas taisa.

Kas tais' gultu zaldātam?
Egļu skuju paladziņis,
Sīkas bruņas pagalvē
Kājas mirka Daugavā.

IV Two doves drank in a stream

Two doves drank in a stream,
Both cooed as they drank;
Two brothers rode off to war,
Both rode, absorbed in thought.

Should we ride, should we not ride,
Should we stay in Kurzeme?
Life in Kurzeme is good,
Young girls make the beds.

Who makes a soldier's bed?
A sheet of spruce needles,
Small armour for a pillow,
Feet soaking in the Daugava River.

V Līku loku upe tek

Līku loku upe tek,
Ratu grieza Daugavā;
Jauni puisi karā jāja,
Sirdi slēdza akmenī.

Zili zaļa diena ausa,
Jo sarkana saule lēca,
Vai tie mani bāleliņi
Svešu zemi dedzināja?

V The river meanders

The river meandered,
Turning a wheel in the Daugava;
Young men rode off to war,
Locking their hearts in stone.

A blue-green day broke,
A red sun rose,
Were those my brothers
Burning a foreign land?



VI Zviedz, zviedz, sirmais zirdziņ!

Zviedz, zviedz, sirmais zirdziņ,
Zviedz, zviedz, zviedz iekš staļļa,
Zviedz iekš staļļa stāvēdams.

Raud, raud jaunais puisīts,
Raud, raud, raud iekš kara,
Raud karā'i dienēdams

Pasakiet manam tēvam,
Pasakiet no manim,
Lai pārdeva savu zemi,
Lai izpirka man' no kara,
Tēvs pārdeva savu zemi,
Man' no kara neizpirka,

Pasakiet manai mātei,
Pasakiet no manim,
Lai pārdeva savas govis,
Lai izpirka man' no kara.
Māte govis gan pārdeva,
Man' no kara neizpirka,

Pasakiet manai brūtei,
Pasakiet no manim,
Lai pārdeva zelta kroni,
Lai izpirka man' no kara.
Tā pārdeva zelta kroni,
Tā izpirka man' no kara.

VI Neigh, neigh, grey horse

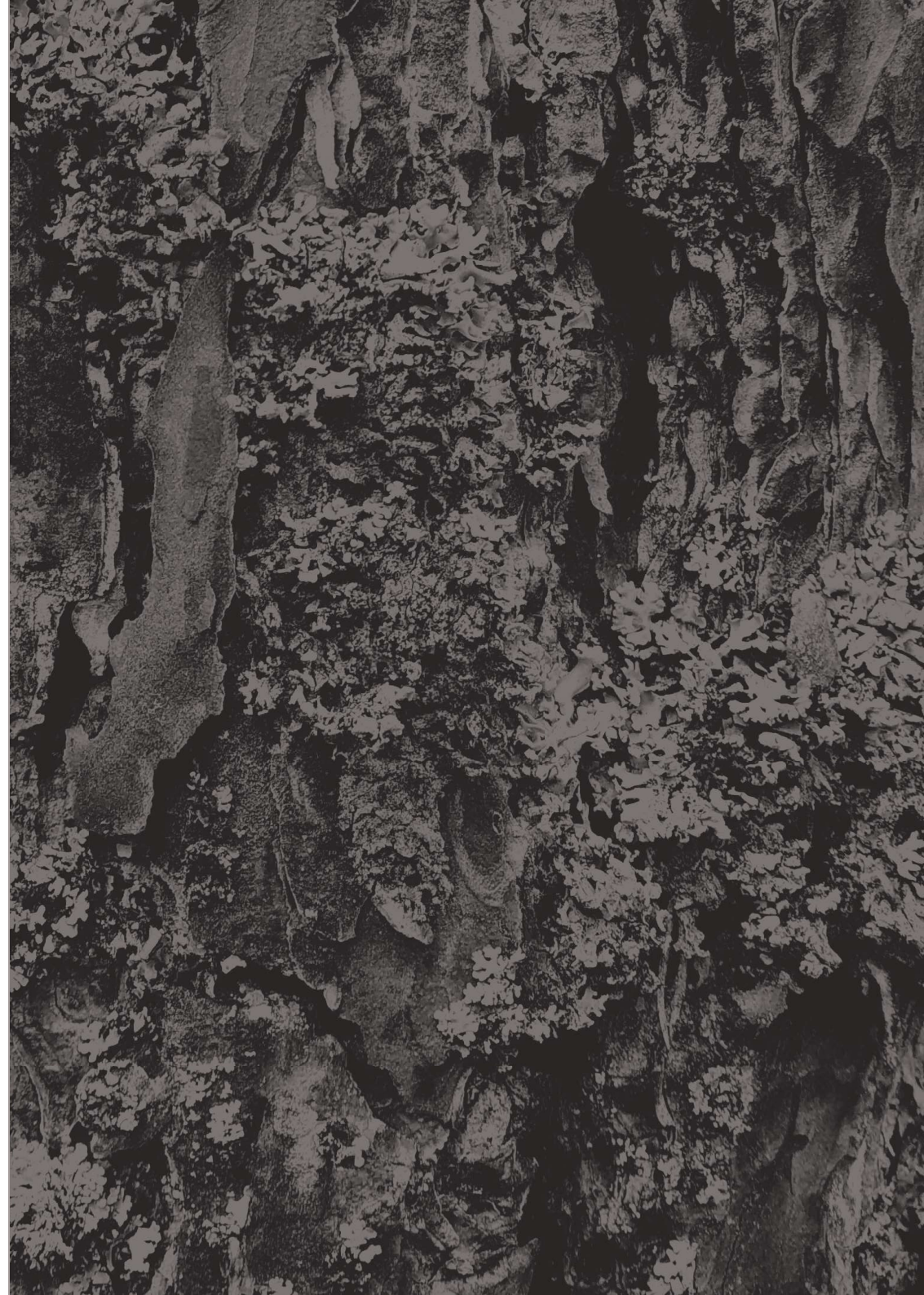
Neigh, neigh, grey horse,
Neigh, neigh, neigh in the stable,
Neigh as you stand in the stable.

Weep, weep, young man,
Weep, weep, weep in battle,
Weep as you serve in battle.

Tell my father,
Tell him from me,
To sell his land,
To buy me out of war.
Father sold his land,
But he did not buy me out of war.

Tell my mother,
Tell her from me,
To sell her cows,
To buy me out of war.
Mother sold her cows,
But she did not buy me out of war.

Tell my bride,
Tell her from me,
To sell her golden crown,
To buy me out of war.
She sold her golden crown,
She bought me out of war.





VII Kara vīra līgaviņa

Kara vīra līgaviņa
Sēd pie loga raudādama,
Sēd pie loga raudādama,
Kara vīru gaidīdama.

VII The soldier's bride

The soldier's bride
Sits at the window weeping,
Sits at the window weeping,
Waiting for the soldier.

VIII Labāk mani karā kāva

Labāk māte mani mazu
Būt upē iemetuse;
Nekā lielu audzējuse
Asajami zobenam.

VIII Better to die in battle

Better that my mother had thrown me in the river
As a young child
Than to have raised me to adulthood
To serve the sharp sword.

Labāk mani karā kāva,
Ne celiņa maliņā;
Lielu kungu karā kāva,
Suni ceļa maliņā.

Better to die in battle
Than on the roadside;
A great lord is killed in battle,
A dog is killed on the roadside.

Karā kauta dvēselīte
Iet pie Dieva dziedādama,
Iet pie Dieva dziedādama

A soul killed in battle
Sings as it goes to meet God,
Sings as it goes to meet God.

IX Pārskrēj' brāļa kumeliņš

Pārskrēj' brāļa kumeliņš,
Baltas smiltis spārdīdams.
Pavaicāju kumeļam,
Kur palika rateniekis?
Tur palika rateniekis,
Kur asiņu upe tek,
Kur asiņu upe tek,
Tur kauliņu tiltu grīd,
Kur kauliņu tiltu grīd,
Tur zobenu žogu pin,
Kur zobenu žogu pin,
Tur guļ vīri kā ozoli
Uz tām Prūšu robežām.

IX My brother's horse returned

My brother's horse returned,
Kicking up white sand.
I asked the horse,
What happened to the rider?
The rider remained
Where the blood river flows;
Where the blood river flows,
There a bridge of bones is built;
Where a bridge of bones is built,
There a fence of swords is woven;
Where a fence of swords is woven,
There the soldiers lie like oak trees
on the Prussian borders.





X POSTLŪDIJA: Kur tecēsi, kaļva sieva?

Kur tecēsi, kaļva sieva,
Pilnu sauju āmuriņu?

– Smēdē teku piešu kalt,
Taisīt jaunu kara vīru.

Gatavs biju kara vīrs,
Gatavs kara kumeliņš,
Tās dieniņas vien gaidīju,
Kad sargāti tēvu zemi.

X POSTLUDE: Where are you going, blacksmith's wife?

Where are you going, blacksmith's wife,
With a handful of hammers?

– Into the smithy to make spurs,
To make a new soldier.

As a soldier I was ready,
And my war horse was ready;
Now I awaited the day
When I could protect my homeland.

ENSEMBLE ARCANDELA

Aiga Bokanova, soprano

Kārlis Saržants, bass-baritone

Liene Brence, violin

Oskars Bokanovs, double bass

Māris Rozenfelds, accordeon

Rihards Plešanovs, piano

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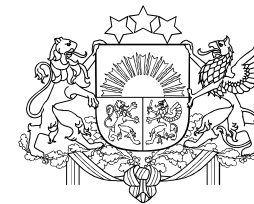
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