Lithuanian Songs and Dances
Monitor Presents

Lithuanian Songs and Dances

In the realm of song and dance, it is the song which occupies the first place. The Lithuanian Folk Songs, called the "Dainas", are in a class of their own. They cover every thought and phase of life. Oddly enough, aside from the patriotic war song compositions which appeared in the twentieth century, not a single daina sings of the glories of war, but rather of its futility and its grief, of the swain who must leave his beloved maiden behind, of the maiden who bemoans her fate because of his parting for war, of the tears of the aged mother, and of the steed which returned alone.

Lithuania has its share of dances, too, but running second place to the number of songs in its repertoire. The reason for this is that one cannot work and dance simultaneously, but one can sing and work at the same time. Dancing required cessation of work, therefore, the dancing was done on special occasions, such as holidays, feast days, weddings, christenings or upon the completion of the harvest. Since the Lithuanians life centered around the farm, their thinking was likewise directed toward that end. Thus, their dances dealt mostly with farm chores: planting, reaping and cultivating; or with the various creatures on the ground, in the sky or waters. None are too humble to merit a song or dance, be it the grasshopper, mosquito, or goat.

The older Lithuanian dances, after their emergence from the simple play form, were sedately slow and restrained. With the passing of years they became livelier. However, they were still free of polka steps. The polka came to Lithuania from Poland, years before it was introduced to Paris by a Czech maiden, whence it spread to the rest of the western world. The waltz never became a part of the Lithuanian folk dance. In the United States, the Lithuanian dance is not only very much alive among the Lithuanians, but it has found great favor among the American folk dancers throughout this entire land.

Notes by V. F. BELIAJUS

SIDE ONE

1. MATCHMAKER'S POLKA (Folk Dance) Pirilio Polka
   Instrumental ensemble conducted by V. Radziveikas

2. THE YOUNG LAD PLOWED (B. Dvarionas)
   Are Are Bernučėlia
   Lithuanian Radio Vocal Ensemble
   Conducted by Antanas Gimžauskas

3. OH, I LED MY STALLION (Folk Song from the Stasys Simkūnas Collection)
   Via Seriaus Seriau
   Jonas Stasunas, vocal; Kaimas Potasinskis, piano

4. THE TUB (Folk Dance)
   Kūlišas (From the Ballet "On the Sea Shore" by J. Juzelius)
   Combined orchestras of the Lithuanian Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Lithuanian Radio Conducted by Rimas Geniušas

5. NIGHTINGALE, YOU CANNOT BE WITHOUT SONG (E. Balsys)
   Laktėtingalę negali nečiušėt
   Valentinas Adamkevičius, vocal; Nadežda Dukstulskaitė, piano

6. THROUGHOUT THE FOREST OF PINE TREES
   (Folk Song arr. by A. Raciūnas)
   Per Gūria Gūrié
   Lithuanian Radio Vocal Ensemble
   Conducted by Antanas Gimžauskas

7. MY OLD FRIENDS CAME TO MY CHAMBER (Music by K. Kaviakas, Text by E. Maciūnas)
   L. Mano Kambiari, Seni Draugai
   Jonas Stasunas, vocal; Kaimas Potasinskis, piano

8. THE JIG (Folk Dance)
   Dažigunė
   Ludvikas Baltušis, Accordion

SIDE TWO

1. YOU'RE A MATCHMAKER (Folk Song arr. by J. Juzelius)
   Tu Svoetil
   Lithuanian Radio Vocal Ensemble
   Conducted by Antanas Gimžauskas

2. VACATION IS SO PLEASANT (Folk Song arr. by J. Tallat-Kelpa)
   Kokši Leŋvas Pošėlia
   Jonas Stasunas, vocal; Kaimas Potasinskis, piano

3. THE ROOSTER (Folk Dance)

4. MY MAIDEN (Folk Song)
   Mano Merkūže
   Kostas Siligis, vocal; Kaimas Potasinskis, piano

5. WHAT HAS MY YOUNG SWAIN PLANNED? (Folk Song arr. by E. Balsys)
   Kas Bėrnelio Sumalvę?
   Valentinas Adamkevičius, vocal; Nadežda Dukstulskaitė, piano

6. OH, THOU FOREST (Folk Song)
   Tu Girūž
   Lithuanian Radio Women's Ensemble
   Conducted by Antanas Gimžauskas

7. I SHALL RISE, EARLY IN THE MORNING
   (Folk Song from the Stasys Simkūnas Collection)
   As Aštvėkelių Ankšti Rytelį
   Jonas Stasunas, vocal; Kaimas Potasinskis, piano

8. SATURDAY (Folk Dance)
   Subatėle
   Ludvikas Baltušis, accordion

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