

Our Country, Our Music

(SLAIDS 2) – Latvia geographically

Latvia is a country in Northern Europe, on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. One of the 3 Baltic States countries. The area of the country is 64,589 km². Our country borders in the North with Estonia, in the east with Russia, in south-east with Belarus, in the south with Lithuania, in the west by the Baltic Sea, and here (shown in presentation) by the Gulf of Riga.

(SLAIDS 3) – Historical Regions

The territory of the country consists of four regions, Kurzeme, Zemgale, Vidzeme and Latgale. Sēlija, which is in the lower part of Zemgale, is also included in the historical regions. The capital - Riga, also the largest city in terms of population, is followed by Daugavpils and Liepāja, where our school is located.

(SLAIDS 4) – General facts

The population is 1.92 million and 62% of them are Latvians and 25% are Russians

Latvian is the official language.

In Religion the most popular is Christianity

Latvia is a parliamentary republic.

The fundamental framework of Latvia's system is the Constitution or as we call it – Satversme.

The current president is Egils Levits.

(SLAIDS 5) – National Symbols

Flag consists of 2 colors in the order red-white-red, in the ratio 2: 1: 2.

The Coat of arms was introduced on June 15, 1921

- The rising sun symbolizes the country of Latvia.
- The Red Lion symbolizes Kurzeme and Zemgale.
- The Silver Griffin symbolizes the Dukedom of Pardaugava, which included Vidzeme and Latgale.
- The Lion and the Griffin are also shown as the shield holders.
- The red-silver-red ribbon reflected the national flag of Latvia.
- Golden stars in a semicircle above the shield symbolize the regions of Latvia, Vidzeme, Latgale and Kurzeme together with Zemgale
- Oak branches - the national tree of Latvia.

(SLAIDS 6) - History

- In prehistory, the territory of Latvia was inhabited by Baltic and Baltic Finnish tribes.
- From the 16th to 18th century, the territory was divided between Poland, Lithuania, Denmark and Sweden.
- In the 18th century, the territory became part of the Russian Empire.
- After the Russian Revolution, it was occupied by the German Empire

- On November 18, 1918, the independence of the Republic of Latvia was declared.
- In the Second World War Latvia was occupied by the Soviet Union, then by Nazi Germany, and again by Soviet Union
- The Republic of Latvia reaffirmed its sovereignty on May 4, 1990

Latvia is a member of NATO, of the European Union, and also a member of the Eurozone.

(SLAIDS 7) – Traditional Vocal Music

Traditional music in Latvia is very colourful and beautiful. We are from Kurzeme and there is a district called South-West Kurzeme, which is known for an unique multipart singing

(SLAIDS 8) Archives of Latvian Folklore

Notations and Transcriptions of melodies were made by teachers and researchers of traditional music.

(SLAIDS 10)- E. Melngailis un notis

During the first half of 20th century composer, conductor and publicist Emilis Melngailis visited South-West Kurzeme several times and collected more than 300 melodies. He published a vast collection of melodies as well.

Here you can see an extract from his manuscript (notation in handwriting) and publication.

(SLAIDS 11)-

The most interesting are songs, that used to be sang multipartially –in two, three and even more voices.

They form a cycle, called Spring songs and consists of one long call” and few “leiši songs”. Let’s hear them.

And now –ONE of leiši songs.

(SLAIDS 13)- The First Latvian Awakening

We had our first national awakening when we were under the Russian empire. It is interesting how with our country's development, developed our music..It always has been a synergy. So, during the first awakening, our professional and academic music starts their story. choral music has always been important for us. We even have unique and big celebration and festival. Our

choirs and dancers come together . In the last festival we had 43 000 participants and half a million viewers. Remember – we are only about 2 million in our country.

(SLAIDS 14)- After the world war I

We were thrilled for our freedom and everyone wanted to make our country stronger, better, more Latvian. So we founded our own music conservatory, opera theatre, national symphonic orchestra and some music schools and first Latvian opera was performed.

(SLAIDS 15)- Notable Latvian Composers

these are our first major composers in history

Jāzeps Vītols - The first internationally known Latvian composer who founded the Latvian Conservatory

Jurjānu Andrejs - The founder of Latvian academic music, the most prominent Latvian music folklorist

(SLAIDS 16)- “Castle of Light”

choir ballad "castle of light". The song is performed by a large choir at the Latvian Song and Dance Festival

(SLAIDS 19)-

After the World War II we were occupied in the 1945.

Everything changes drastically – everything must be in the spirit of social realism and in Russian language.

(SLAIDS 20)- Ending of 20th Century

- There was an intense censorship.
- Latvia didn't have a wall like in Berlin, but Latvians still were behind the "iron curtain", not knowing a lot about culture outside the Soviet Union. And that lasted for 45 years.

(SLAIDS 21)

we, Latvians are stubborn in moments when our freedom doesn't belong to us. When we were under Soviet Union, we decided to fight but in peaceful way like Revolution by song or holding hands in one really long line uniting 3 Baltic countries.

AUDIO -Ieva Akuratere - Manai Tautai (Palīdzi Dievs) | To My Nation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnjZVVgqqEU>

(SLAIDS 22)

This song is like a prayer to our nation of these hard times.

ATSKANŅOT

0.42 - 1.08

(SLAIDS 23)

- So obviously all this affected music tendencies. Rock became top music style, song topics were about freedom. And first rock opera had a premiere about very meaningful **Latvia's mythical warrior hero "Lāčplēsis", who fought for home land.**
-
- Fun fact, our city Liepāja actually is called - **Capital city of rock in our country,**
- **AAANDDD there are rockstars who went to our school too)**
-
- Dzimtā valoda? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Osrj-Q-pkKA>

(SLAIDS 24)

Many nations have tried to take our freedom, our culture and our language. This song is about importance of our mother language - Latvian language

ATSKAŅOT:

0.19 - 1.17

(SLAIDS 25)

ATSKAŅOT:

00.25 - 1.19

(SLAIDS 26)

Latvia has finally become a free and independent country. There are famous composers like Lolita Ritmanis, who has made music for Hollywood movies like Batman, with whom we just had a masterclass in our school. We also have opera singers and conductors who are famous world wide.

(SLAIDS 27)

FESTIVALS

- In our country there is happening massive festivals in the summer near the beach. They are called "Summer sound" "Positivus" and "waterfest"

(SLAIDS 28)

Also, we are really proud that nowadays there is musicians in every genre of music.

(SLAIDS 29)

We have professional musicians in academic music

(SLAIDS 30)

Rock groups

We also have many rock groups. And we think, that your lithuanian teacher looks a little bit like “iron wolves” group solist

(SLAIDS 31)

In latvia we Have creative artists that makes covers and mixes different genres, like Group DA GAMBĀ, who calls themselves “huligans of classical music

(SLAIDS 32)

ATSKAŅOT:

0.07 -0.46

(SLAIDS 33)

To conclude, We are really proud of our music developments ,but we will always have a special place in our hearts for latvian traditional music.

(SLAIDS 34)

ATSKAŅOT:

2.28 -BEIGĀM

(SLAIDS 35)

ATSKAŅOT

2.38 - BEIGAS

(SLAIDS 36)

ATSKAŅOT

1.37 - BEIGAS)