



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

Mr. Šarūnas Birutis
Minister
Ministry of Culture
Republic of Lithuania
J. Basanavičiaus g. 5
LT-01118 Vilnius
Lithuania

04.02.2025 No 9-9/132-1

Invitation to the Estonian Song and Dance Celebration 2025

Dear Mr. Šarūnas Birutis,

On the occasion of your inauguration as the Minister of Culture, I would like to extend you my warm congratulations as well as my best wishes. I am confident that we will continue working with you in order to strengthen even further the excellent bilateral relations between our two countries, as well as continue standing together in times of global challenges. I hope the nearest future brings us an opportunity to meet in person and discuss important topics in Lithuanian and Estonian cultural cooperation as well as in Baltic cultural cooperation.

Singing has always been at the heart of the Estonian identity, uniting us through both the darkest and the brightest times. The Estonian Song and Dance Celebration is a cherished tradition since 1869 that Estonians look forward to, combining both folk and contemporary culture. Moreover, this is a common tradition that proudly joins us with Lithuanians and Latvians, the Baltic Song and Dance Celebration being part of UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The next edition of the Estonian Celebration, titled *Kinship*, will take place in July 2025. In 2025 we celebrate both the Estonian language that unites us, and the regional dialects that distinguish us. This time, singers and dancers from every corner of Estonia will bring their unique expressions to the stage: a million notes, a million steps, a million people. Together, they will form one voice and one nation, united in kinship.

I would like to invite you to Tallinn to be part of our Celebration.

The Grand Opening Concert takes place in the evening of July 5, preceded by the procession of all participants. On the previous day, July 4, you are most welcome to the Dance Celebration's concert in the morning, and a solemn dinner at the Arvo Pärt Centre in the evening.

We would be delighted to host you in the format 1+1 as well as to organize an additional programme. We kindly ask you to inform us of your participation at latest by 07.03.2025. In case of questions please do not hesitate to contact our International Relations Department (contact: Ulla Kihva, ulla.kihva@kul.ee). More information about the festival can be found on the homepage <https://2025.laulupidu.ee/en/general-information/song-festival-concerts/> .

It would truly be a pleasure if you could join our nation and sing along.

I look forward to seeing you in Estonia in July.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidy Purga', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the bottom right.

Heidy Purga

Minister

Additional Recipients: The Embassy of the Republic of Estonia in Lithuania

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