

Ms. Agnese Lāce Minister Ministry of Culture Republic of Latvia K.Valdemāra iela 11-a Rīga, LV-1364 Latvia

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Invitation to the Estonian Song and Dance Celebration 2025

Dear Ms. Agnese Lāce,

I hope this letter finds you well and that the year 2025 has started for you with an inspiring flow—just like Gints Zilbalodis' magnificent *Flow* continues to inspire Estonia and the rest of the world. My sincere congratulations on the success of Latvian animation! I look very much forward to our meetings this year and to discussions on strengthening further our excellent bilateral and 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 Latvians and Lithuanians, 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.

Suur-Karja 23 / 15076 Tallinn, Estonia / + 372 628 2222 / min@kul.ee / www.kul.ee / Registration No 70000941

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, <u>ulla.kihva@kul.ee</u>). 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,

Heidy Purga Minister

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