

## LITHUANIAN SONG FESTIVAL

## **ONE FAMILY - ONE NATION**

## **CLEVELAND** 2025.VI.27-29



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## An Exceptional Concert Coming to Downtown Cleveland this Summer

In a historic first, the world-renowned Lithuanian Song Festival is coming to downtown Cleveland June 27-29, 2025. Baltic song festivals, a tradition begun more than 100 years ago, are the literal coming together of a nation in song. Choirs of all ages gather every 4-5 years to perform a single, coordinated repertoire, expressing their shared love of music and the vitality of their culture, nationality and traditions.

The centennial celebration of the first song festival took place in Lithuania this past summer. It featured more than 12,000 singers from over 450 choirs. It was attended by more than 100,000 spectators, and the live stream was viewed by over 300,000 viewers across the globe. In a country with a population under 3 million, the song festivals are a cultural phenomenon.

CLEVELAND

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CHICAGO 2015

LITHUANIAN

SONG FESTIVAL

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The song festival tradition was continued by the Lithuanian diaspora in the USA and Canada as a means of preserving their culture abroad. The first festival occurred in 1956 and motivated the community to fight for Lithuania's independence, which was regained in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The upcoming 2025 song festival will be the 11th such celebration in North America.

The song festival, which in its spirit is reminiscent of the ancient Greek Olympic Games, is recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. The song festival in Cleveland includes several events and venues, with a culminating concert on June 29 at the Cleveland Public Auditorium that will feature approximately 1,500 adult, children and youth choristers representing 65 choirs from across the United States, Canada, and Europe. They

will be accompanied by a special orchestra of Lithuanian folk instruments and joined by 100 folk dancers for the concert finale.

The XI North American Lithuanian Song Festival is appropriately called: "One Family – One Nation", seeking to maintain the Lithuanian heritage and foster it among younger generations who share its roots.

Don't miss this exceptional concert at the Cleveland Public Auditorium, Sunday June 29, 2025, at 2:00 PM! Tickets will be available through the festival website in January!





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