

## Pienės pūkas Dandelion Fluff in the Wind

*Music: Aleksandras Stankevičius*

*Lyrics: Aušrinė Širvinskienė*

**Aleksandras Stankevičius** is one of the senior artistic directors organizing the XI North American Lithuanian Song Festival.

A. Stankevičius studied composition and conducting at McGill University in Montreal. For many years he led the choir at the Gates of Dawn Lithuanian parish, as well as a Lithuanian community choir, a men's octet, and a women's ensemble. The community choir published a recording of Christmas music (titled "Christmas"). On the occasion of the 600 year anniversary of Catholicism in Lithuania, the composer wrote a cantata "The Lithuania of Crosses and Wayside Shrines", lyrics by the poet Henrikas Nagys, performed in Lithuania as well as in North America. Mr. Stankevičius is recognized not only in the Lithuanian community, but throughout the province of Quebec. He has composed music for television, radio, films, and commercials. His own recording "Let it Out" contains 11 works, written in a modern, youthful style.

### **Dandelion fluff in the wind.**

The song and dance invites us and gathers us together. Like a dandelion we have put down roots in foreign soil, but we invite our Homeland to be a guest at the party. This happy, cheerful, youthful song has not a care in the world. It brings us all together and makes us feel as though we invited Lithuania into our home.

I have no insight into some deeper meaning, merely what is written in these lines. Every listener can have their own interpretation. But I would dwell on the image of "dandelion fluff". The fluff is unstable – wherever the wind blows, there it flies. It seems to me this image represents not our own instability, but youthfulness, dance, song, and that light feeling – that anything is possible, that we will always be young, strong, beautiful, and happy.

Be merry, o my youth, while you are  
still young.  
While still young!

