

## Žmonės ant kalnų People on the Hills

*Music: Laimis Vilkončius*

*Lyrics: Sigitas Geda*

The lyrics were written in 1981, in a poem originally titled "The Larks". It was first published in 1985 in the author's book of poetry "The White Crow".

Currently these poems are considered classics of children's literature. They present to us a magical world of fantasy.

This is my own personal interpretation of the poem. I perceive deeper ideas than children could understand. In no way do I claim that my explanations are the only accurate ones. If a work of art does not lend itself to "intelligent" analysis, then we should give consideration to a personal approach.

The **lark** is a harbinger of spring. It returns from warmer climates in springtime, and symbolizes the renewal and rebirth of nature. The lark's happy song brings joy to the plowman working the field and calls the earth to new life. The lark's melodious song and soaring / dipping flight have come to represent naturalness and freedom. Its return in spring brings to mind a new beginning and brings comfort and hope, because it foretells that bad times are ending and a new, better period is approaching.

**People on the hills** can be interpreted as individuals who strive to overcome obstacles and reach for the heights. It might be a metaphor for people who are inspired by ideas, ideals, or spiritual goals – but also may feel isolated or rejected. Perhaps these are people who believed in Lithuania's independence and worked in the "underground" to achieve it. Because this is a children's poem, perhaps things in a child's world appear larger than life: the parents' size and height – like people standing on a mountain; adult conversation – like shouting; the fluttering of a bird's wings – like someone waving their arms.

The exhilarated mood of Laimis Vilkončius' music truly supersedes any search for serious and profound meanings in the poem. Instead, the music transports us to the care-free, safe, and joyful world of a child.

Sources:

Kęstutis Nastopka: "On the Way with Sigitas Geda."

Lithuanian Encyclopedia: "Sigitas Geda"

Sigitas Geda: "The White Crow", a book of poetry for children

Rimvydas Šilbajoris: "Sigitas Geda: from Near and Far"