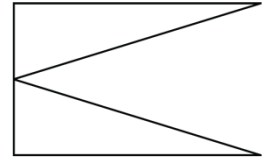


INVITATION TO THE LITVAK CULTURE FORUM IN KAUNAS



Kaunas 2022
Europos kultūros sostinė

We are privileged to invite You to the first Litvak Culture Forum in Kaunas, Lithuania on 29th-30th of September, 2022. The Forum, initiated by the Kaunas 2022 programme “Memory Office”, will be followed by a varied programme of art events in different parts of the city.

The Patron of the Litvak Cultural Forum is the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Ingrida Šimonytė. Honorary Patrons - Prof. Liudas Mažylis and Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of the Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania.

Academics, historians, museum professionals, education experts, representatives of the art world, and community members - the Forum will bring together dozens of speakers from various fields and countries. Many of the guests will be visiting the land of their ancestors for the first time - these experiences are crucial in an event that raises the question of what it means to be a Litvak. Other themes of the Forum include culture and art as a key to history and the perpetuation of memory as a way to build a better future and promote openness and dialogue. Full programme of the Forum is attached to this invitation.

During the days of the Forum, special musical projects will be presented to the participants and guests at Žalgirio Arena. On 29 September, a concert of Yiddish songs by Marija Krupoves, dedicated to the Jewish memory of the city and the special spirit of Kaunas is scheduled. On 30 September and 1 October, the focus will be on the premier of Kaunas Cantata by composer Philip Miller and artist Jenny Kagan. The Cantata tells the complex story of historical upheaval, the Holocaust, deportations and personal trauma, and the traces it has left in the lives of generations and individuals in the language of music, texts and images. The premiere will be performed by over 200 musicians, the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, choirs and various ensembles. More [information about this event](#).

Please inform us about Your plans about participation **by sending us the [registration form](#)**. More information about the programme and cultural events can be found <https://kaunas2022.eu/en/litvakforum/>. For additional questions please contact us by e-mail: dovile@kaunas2022.eu

Wishing You a very beautiful season, good health and success in Your endeavours, we will be looking forward to seeing You in Kaunas as our special guest.

With love,

office@kaunas2022.eu
+ 370 678 62838
kaunas2022.eu

VšĮ Kaunas 2022, kodas 304497759
Laisvės al. 36, Kaunas 44240, Lietuva
IBAN LT317300010151711669, Bankas Swedbank

Virginija Vitkienė

PROGRAMME

29 SEPTEMBER, THURSDAY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LITVAK?

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:15 Opening and Welcome speeches

Prime Minister of Lithuania Ms. Ingrida Šimonytė

Ambassador of Israel to Lithuania Mrs. Hadas Wittenberg Silverstei

Chairwoman of the Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania Ms. Faina Kukliansky

10:15 – 10:45 Musical Performance *After Shagal*. Composer Anatoly Shenderov

10:45 – 11:05 Katharina von Schnurbein Coordinator of the European Commission for combating anti-Semitism and promoting Jewish life. *An EU Without Anti-Semitism - Implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Anti-Semitism and Promote Jewish Life*

11:05 – 11:25 Prof. Antony Polonsky (RSA/UK). *What is a Litvak? Reflections on Litvak identity*

11:25 – 11:45 Prof. Peter Salovey (USA). *The Multiple Dimensions of a Litvak Identity*

11:45 – 12:05 Prof. Robert Kusek, Dr. Wojciech Szymański (PL). *From "Nowhere" to "Somewhere" and Back: South Africans and the Return to Lithuania*

12:05 – 12:25 Prof. Tsvia Walden (IL). *Litvak Fingerprints in Modern Hebrew*

12:25 – 12:45 Artist Marilia Destot (USA). *My Poetic Journey. How to Revisit, Remember, Transmit a Fading History ?*

13:00 – 14:00 Break

14:00 – 15:30 Discussion. The Search For a Common Identity

The discussion is organized by the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community

Participants:

Martynas Užpelkis - Heritage Expert of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community

Viktorija Sideraitė Alon - architect, member of the Lithuanian Jewish Community, member of the creative group JUDVI&AŠ

Simas Levinas - Chairman of Vilnius Jewish Religious Community

Dr. Ruth Reches - Director of the Vilnius Sholom Aleichem ORT Gymnasium

Prof. Leonid Melnik - pianist, organist, musicologist, head of the department of the LMTA.

15:30 – 16:00 Performance of klezmer music by pianist Aleksandr Paley and clarinetist Karolis Kolakauskas

16:00 – 16:15 Break

Presentation of Rosa Litay's (IL) exhibition *Lithuanians in the Streets of Israel*. Organised by the Vilnius Gaon Museum of Jewish History

Location: Lobby of the VMU Central Hall

16:15 – 17:30 Discussion. *What does it mean to be litvak?*

Moderator: Prof. A.Polonsky, Professor Emeritus at Brandeis University, author of numerous monographs (RSA/UK)

Panelists:

Prof. Peter Salovey, President and Chris Argyris Professor of Psychology, Yale University (US)

Prof. Tsvia Walden, Psycholinguist, Professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (IL)

Dr. Robert Kusek, Jagiellonian University Professor (PL)

Faina Kukliansky, Chairwoman of Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community (LT)

30 SEPTEMBER, FRIDAY

ART HELPS TO UNDERSTAND HISTORY, ART HELPS TO REMEMBER

9:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:05 - 10:25 Prof. James E.Young (US). *History, Memory, and Monuments*

10:25 - 10:40 Journalist and artist Michael Shubitz (IL). *Life without images*

10:40 - 10:55 Artist Bruce Clarke (FR). *Weaving memories, connecting histories with art*

10:55 - 11:10 Artist Jyll Bradley (UK). *Threshold*

11:10 - 11:25 Artist, curator Paulina Pukytė (LT/UK). *There And Not There – What the 11th Kaunas Art Biennial Did with Monuments?*

11:25 - 11:45 Curator of Kaunas 2022 programme "Memory Office" Dr. Daiva Price (LT). *How Did We Remember?*

11:45 – 12:00 Break

12:00 – 12:50 Discussion on main topic: *art helps to understand history, art helps to remember*

Moderator: prof. Violeta Davoliūtė, VU TSPMI researcher on the politics of memory in East Central Europe (LT)

Panelists:

Paulina Pukytė, artist, writer, art curator (LT)

Bruce Clarke, artist, author of the ECCE HOMO project in Kaunas IX Fort (FR)

Dr. Daiva Price, art historian, curator of Kaunas 2022 programme "Memory Office" (LT)

13:00 – 14:00 Break

14:00 - 14:20 Artist Sigutė Chlebinskaitė and translator, poet Antanas A. Jonynas (LT). *The First Book in Lithuanian by Leah Goldberg*

14:20 - 14:35 Artist M.Lukošaitis (LT). *Jews. My story*

14:35 - 14:50 Artist Lina Šlipavičiūtė-Černiauskienė (LT). *Searching for lost memory in the street art project "Walls Remember"*

14:50 - 15:10 Writer Aneta Anra (LT). *Remaining a Woman in the Face of the Holocaust*

15:15 - 15:30 Break

15:30 - 16:30 Discussion on main topic: *art helps to understand history, art helps to remember*

Moderator: publicist Donatas Puslys (LT)

Panelists:

Sigutė Chlebinskaitė, the artist of the book "Rented Apartment" (LT)

Antanas A. Jonynas, the translator of the book, poet (LT)

Aneta Anra, the writer, author of the book "Yehudit. The World Could Be So Beautiful" (LT)

16:30 - 17:00 Summary of the Forum

IN THE FORUM PROGRAMME YOU WILL HEAR:

Musical performance *After Shagal*. Composer Anatolijus Šenderovas

Composer Šenderovas said about this work: "Almost 30 years ago, when I was in Jerusalem for the first time, in the Hadassah Medical Centre, in the special hall (synagogue), I saw unusually bright colours on the floor. It was a reflection of Marc Chagall's twelve stained-glass windows mounted high up on the ceiling. They were full of symbols - triangles and circles, imprints of birds, fish, beasts, menorahs and Hebrew letters. A kind of Babylon. However, Shagal's main source of inspiration is the Bible and his own experience. The image kept changing as the sun set. My work is also full of symbols - the clarinet recalls the former Jewish life in Europe, the percussion and the string quartet are like an allusion to the Biblical world."

Šenderovas' work will be performed by the *Chordos* String Quartet, clarinetist Algirdas Žiūra and percussionist Arkadijus Gotesmanas. Šenderovas and Gotesmanas have a long personal creative friendship: especially for this work, Gotesmanas has made a stand that can hold the sounding pieces of stained glass.

A performance of klezmer music by pianist Alexander Paley and clarinetist Karolis Kolakauskas

Pianist A. Paley has been interested in klezmer music for many years. This is the music which was played at weddings and festivals. Over time, it developed into a separate genre of music. Although it seems simple, this music is not easy to play, and improvisation is very important. The musicians will remind us of the life of the Jews of Vilnius, which is no longer...

LITVAK CULTURE FORUM RECOMMENDS

29 September, 19:00

From Ashes to Glory: Musicians from Kaunas and Vilnius Ghettos at the Nuremberg Opera (1946)

This is "a concert about those whose glances recorded their lives in an invisible diary, those for whom the barrack wall was a prayer book, who kept their violins, whose fates eventually became the pride of the world. About Kaunas and its special spirit", say the organisers.

The concert will be performed by singer Marija Krupoves. She will be accompanied by Artūras Anusauskas, violinists Borisas Kirzneris and Vytautas Mikeliūnas, double bassist Eugenijus Kanevičius, accordionist Darius Bagdonavičius, clarinetist Haroldas Parulis, and percussionist Arkadijus Gotesmanas.

Venue: Žalgiris Arena. Concert free of charge

30 September and 1 October, 19:00

"Kaunas Cantata", premiere.

This is a collaboration between two Litvaks - artist Jenny Kagan (UK), composer Philip Miller (PAR) - and many Lithuanian and foreign musicians. It is a conversation about difficult historical traumas and the need to remain silent. The cantata invites us to confront ourselves and encourages us to talk about difficult choices in the face of dramatic events. It is therefore particularly relevant in today's context of war.

Venue: Žalgiris Arena. Tickets are available: <https://www.bilietai.lt>