



LITHUANIAN
NATIONAL
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY



concert
season

Orchestral Music Series

Dedicated to Lithuania

To mark the Day of
the Restoration of the
State of Lithuania



LITHUANIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(artistic director and principal conductor
Modestas Pitrėnas)

VILNIUS State Choir

(artistic director and principal conductor Artūras
Dambrauskas)

Soloists:

LUKAS GENIUŠAS (piano)

MONIKA PLEŠKYTĖ (soprano)

IEVA PRUDNIKOVAITĖ (mezzo-soprano)

TOMAS PAVILIONIS (tenor)

TADAS GIRININKAS (bass)

Conductor **MODESTAS PITRĖNAS**

16 February 2025, Lithuanian
National Philharmonic Concert
Hall



PATRON OF THE CONCERT



H.E. PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA GITANAS NAUSĖDA

PROGRAMME

ZITA BRUŽAITĖ (b. 1966)

Siluetai (Silhouettes) (dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, 2024, première)

MIKALOJUS KONSTANTINAS ČIURLIONIS (1875–1911)
and DONATAS ZAKARAS (b. 1979)

Fantazija Čiurlionio temomis (Fantasy on Themes by Čiurlionis) for piano and orchestra (2024, première)

Performers:

LUKAS GENIUŠAS (piano)
LITHUANIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
Conductor MODESTAS PITRĖNAS

DONATAS ZAKARAS (b. 1979)

Ar tai kartais ne sapnas? (Is it not a Dream?), words by M.K. Čiurlionis) for choir and orchestra (2024, première)

Performers:

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
VILNIUS State Choir
Conductor MODESTAS PITRĖNAS

ANTANAS KUČINSKAS (b. 1968)

For Rest for orchestra (2011, new version 2025)

BRONIUS KUTAVIČIUS (1932–2021)

Dzūkiškos variacijos (Dzūkijan Variations) for string orchestra and choir (1974)

Performers:

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
VILNIUS State Choir
(the voice of folk singer Veronika Povilioniene from the recording)
Conductor MODESTAS PITRĖNAS

RAMINTA ŠERKŠNYTĖ (b. 1975)

Gloria for brass quintet, choir and symphony orchestra (2017)

Te Deum for soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, bass, brass quintet, choir and orchestra (2023, Lithuanian première)

Performers:

MONIKA PLEŠKYTĖ (soprano)
IEVA PRUDNIKOVAITĖ (mezzo-soprano)
TOMAS PAVILIONIS (tenor)
TADAS GIRININKAS (bass)
ALGIRDAS JANUŠEVIČIUS (trumpet)
ARVYDAS BARZINSKAS (trumpet)
GINTARAS ŠČERBAVIČIUS (French horn)
REMIGIJUS GUMULIAUSKAS (trombone)
ŽYGIMANTAS DANAUSKIS (trombone)
JOLANTA SILKAUSKIENĖ (organ)
VILNIUS State Choir
LITHUANIAN NATIONAL SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
Conductor MODESTAS PITRĖNAS

The tradition continues at the National Philharmonic Hall of celebrating the Day of the Restoration of the State of Lithuania with works by Lithuanian composers. It is supplemented this year by the 150th anniversary of the birth of the national genius Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis, which is being celebrated by events throughout the year. This concert is therefore linked to the composers' contemplations on Čiurlionis, featuring recent works and pieces from the golden fund of contemporary Lithuanian music.

One of the first dedications to Čiurlionis in Lithuanian music was *Dzūkiškos variacijos (Dzūkijan Variations)*, written by the distinguished composer Bronius Kutavičius in 1974. Due to the nature of the folk song and its power to rally people, the work became a symbol of the nascent national self-awareness that was emerging behind the Iron Curtain.

Composers of the younger generation also share their inspiration. "Čiurlionis' letters to Sofija were a great discovery for me," says Donatas Zakaras. "Sincere, fragile, full of love and respect, as if coming from another world, the letters resonated deeply when being turned into music." Zakaras will be presenting not only his latest work *Ar tai kartais ne sapnas? (Is it not a Dream?)*, based on the words of Čiurlionis, for choir and symphony orchestra, but also *Fantazija Čiurlionio temomis (Fantasy on Themes by Čiurlionis)* for piano and symphony orchestra, where he has taken the genius' subtle piano miniatures (suggested by Lukas Geniušas), and carefully clothed them in the garb of the symphony orchestra.

In one of his letters to Sofija, Čiurlionis wrote the following words: “Silhouette. How come you’re not here at this moment ...?” These words inspired Zita Bružaitė’s new symphonic poem *Silhouettes*. “In Čiurlionis’ paintings, we can see recurring images of angels, serpents, mountains, boats, etc, which come to us either vividly or in a guessable and contoured way, and become barely visible silhouettes against the background of the painting. Since all images have semantic references and can create a narrative, this kind of programmatic storyline led to the choice of the symphonic poem, the dominant genre of Romanticism,” says Bružaitė.

Antanas Kučinskas’ opus *For Rest* (2011), which is dedicated to Čiurlionis, reveals a modern approach both to the work of the genius and to modern compositional techniques. Kučinskas writes: “The composition is based on material from Čiurlionis’ symphonic poem *In the Forest*. It has been broken down to the ‘elementary particles’: individual notes and micro-segments. By undoing their interconnections, a new and completely different-sounding musical whole was created. The work uses looping, cut and paste, layering, and other compositional techniques that are commonly found in DJ music.”

Raminta Šerkšnytė’s work *Gloria* was premiered in 2018 at the concert “Gloria to Lithuania”, dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Day of the Restoration of Independence of Lithuania. *Te Deum* was premiered in Duisburg in Germany to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the first-ever mention of Vilnius. “The main sources of inspiration for *Gloria* were the celebration of 16 February, which is associated with freedom and light, and Čiurlionis’ painting *Karalių pasaka* (Fairy Tale of the Kings), in which two kings gaze at a glowing globe held in the palms of their hands.

I associate this painting with the birth of the state. And in *Te Deum*, which I composed a few years later, I sought to convey the hope and belief that even in the current turbulent times, moving towards the light will be the vision of Vilnius, Lithuania, and the world,” says Šerkšnytė.

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For your information, the organisers will film and photograph the event for archive and broadcasting purposes.

