Early Music Festival in Riga and Rundale

02.08.2011

The XVII International Early Music Festival will provide an opportunity for a contemporary person to experience Renaissance, Medieval and Baroque periods through music. The festival's concerts will take place from July 6 to 9 and will gather listeners in Riga’s Old Town churches and concert halls.

The festivities will reach climax in the most magnificent Latvian Baroque palace, the summer residence of the Duke of Courland - Rundale Palace. The palace, designed by the Italian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli, was even called Courland’s Versailles due to its magnificence, luxury and sophistication.

“The festival has raised a considerable generation of European historic music interpreters,” points out musicologist Inese Lusina.

Each year various early music ensembles from Europe, as well as Columbia, USA, Brazil and even New Zealand, take part in the festival. Splendid costumes of olde, early music instruments, authentic performances and fireworks will leave no one indifferent!

On July 9, the listeners will be able enjoy Georg Frideric Handel’s beautiful arias in Rundale Palace’s White Hall, while “Concilium musicum Wien’s” concert in the Golden Hall will offer the atmosphere of the Habsburg court.
Without a doubt, the festival’s main highlight will be the concert by the world-famous Baroque-harp player Andrew Laurence King and the Chamber Orchestra “Sinfonietta Riga” with program “Choreographie” in Rundale Palace’s White Hall, featuring Louis XIV court music.

The festival will conclude with Italian Baroque master Antonio Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons”, performed by the outstanding violinist Baiba Skride, the Chamber Orchestra “Kremerata Baltica”, conducted by Andris Veismanis.

http://www.smf.lv/news.php

http://www.rundale.net/index2.htm

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