



RĪGAS DOMES IZGLĪTĪBAS, KULTŪRAS UN SPORTA DEPARTAMENTS

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Diverse program of cultural events to take place during Hanseatic Days in Riga

During the period Riga celebrates its birthday, this year from August 19 to 22, the 41st International Hanseatic Days will take place, during which Riga will celebrate its historical membership in the Hanseatic League with the art and culture program called Sailing Through the Centuries. Anyone interested will be able to visit the Hanseatic market, go on special walking routes, participate in a virtual youth program, watch musical events, see art installations in the urban environment, as well as attend various exhibitions.

Historically, Riga was a city that accepted free trade, so it became one of the most important Hanseatic cities in the Middle Ages. For more than 300 years, Hanseatic merchants in 400 cities were united by three values - water, city and freedom. Respecting these values and at the same time respecting today's epidemiological precautions, the Hanseatic Days program includes a number of walking routes, markets, musical events, virtual events, youth activities, environmental installations and exhibitions. Although not all events of the Hanseatic Days art and culture program will be organized in person due to the pandemic, everyone will be able to follow them remotely on the website www.rigahanza.lv or watch the events on large screens in Dome Square, Brīvības Square and Vērmāne Garden, which will also serve as virtual information centers during Hanseatic Day. Persons will also be able to watch video greetings prepared by foreign Hanseatic cities on these screens.

The opening ceremony of the Hanseatic Days with the artistic performance by the Orchestra Riga will take place on August 19, and everyone interested will have the opportunity to watch the event live on the website www.rigahanza.lv, as well as on large screens located in the city.

To delight the audience both in Riga and throughout Latvia, as well as in the cities of the Hanseatic League, on August 20 in Riga Dome Cathedral Garden a concert performance called Sailing Through the Centuries will be held, where the main characters - Hanseatic values and metaphors, will be singer Jolanta Strikaite-Lapina, actor Artis Robežnieks, painter Kristīne Kutepova, choreographer Egija Abaroviča, poet Toms Treibergs and participants of the Riga Pantomime collective under the leadership of Andris Apiņš. Musicians Raimonds Petrauskis, Oskars Petrauskis, Ernests Mediņš and Ieva Saliete also

work in the creative team of the concert performance and will participate in the concert. The concert performance will be broadcast live on the Hanseatic Days website and on large outdoor screens throughout the city. Invitations to attend the concert in person can be received by writing an e-mail to vefkp@riga.lv, indicating the number of invitations and the name and surname of the visitors. A valid Covid-19 certificate and ID will be required at the entrance to the concert.

At the HANSEartWORKS concert in Riga's St. Peter's Church, music will be blended with specially created light scenography. The concert will feature music by baroque masters performed by violinist Agnese Kanniņa, harpsichordist Gertrude Jerjomenko, tenor Ansis Bētiņš, soprano Jeanne-Marie Lelièvre, DJ Monsta and the State Academic Choir Latvija. This concert will also be broadcast live on the official website and on outdoor screens throughout the city. Free invitations to the concert will be available from August 17 at the box office of St. Peter's Church in Riga. A valid Covid-19 certificate and ID will be required at the entrance to the concert.

Music can also be enjoyed on August 21 from 16:00 at Ķīpsala beach area in the concert Musical Snack in Daugavmala. The audience will be able to hear many well-known Latvian musicians - Kristīne Prauliņa and the group The Soulful Crew, the musical collective ZeMe and Lauma Bērza, the group Neaizmirstulītes, Daumants Kalniņš and The Jokers, as well as Ralfs Eilands. Entry to the event is free with a valid Covid-19 certificate and ID.

The Hanseatic Days are unthinkable without trading activities, so on August 21 and 22, Riga residents and guests will have the opportunity to visit the Hanseatic Market and visit several market squares - Town Hall Square, the square at the foot of Riga St. Peter's Church, Vērmāne Garden and Esplanade, where it will be possible to purchase local handicrafts and souvenirs of Hanseatic cities, taste exquisite culinary masterpieces, as well as view street performances and performances by traveling artists. Six Latvian Hanseatic cities will participate in the market - Riga, Limbaži, Kuldīga, Cēsis, Straupe and Koknese, thus connecting the Hanseatic market as a whole.

During these days, several exhibitions will also be organized. An ambitious cultural event will take place at the Riga Art Space, where artists - representatives of the Hanseatic cities - have created new works especially for this event, choosing the theme Hanseatic New Gold as a unifying motif. Participating in the exhibition will be 30 artists from Estonia, Russia, Latvia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Sweden, representing 20 Hanseatic cities. Meanwhile, the second part of the exhibition will be located in St. Peter's Church, which will consist of paintings and graphic art created using classical techniques and approaches. Admission to both exhibitions is free. Everyone will also have the opportunity to view art in the pedestrian zone of the November 11 Embankment, where residents will be able to see the urban environmental installations called Hanseatic Vectors in Riga, the infographic exhibition Hanseatic Cities, as well as the exhibition of the FAIR HANSA project group called The Path to the Fair Hansa. The exhibition Archaeological

Evidence of Hanseatic Trade in Riga will be on display at the Riga History and Navigation Museum.

In addition to concerts and exhibitions, everyone will have the opportunity to take part in an interactive walking route Testimonies of the Hanseatic League in Riga and watch the closing ceremony of the Hanseatic Days.

The events of the Hanseatic Days will be complemented by *youthHansa* activities, in which Riga will combine the cultural and historical heritage of the Hanseatic League and the challenges of modern Hanseatic cities on climate change, urban-water interactions, public involvement (including youth) in decision-making and urban development. The program will be fully conducted online, thus allowing a much larger number of young people to join than usual. Furthermore, during the 41st International Hanseatic Days, a number of inter-institutional and international events will also take place.

The 41st International Hanseatic Days is supported by the Riga City Council, and organized by the Education, Culture and Sports Department of the Riga City Council in cooperation with the cultural institutions of the capital.

The Hanseatic Days events will be complemented by the Riga Summer Culture Program taking place in the capital this year, which will take place alongside the activities of the Hanseatic Days. The program of Hanseatic Days events is available on the website www.rigahanza.lv.

The events of the Hanseatic Days will take place in accordance with the epidemiological safety conditions in force at that time, and the program is subject to change.

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