

December 19, 2021

Respected Lithuanian Folk Dance directors and teachers,
The XVI Lithuanian Folk Dance festival is only 6+ months away! We thank all who were able to participate in our Skype meeting. Sharing your concerns allows us to make necessary adjustments for a successful festival. Hopefully, this letter addresses some of your concerns following our meeting.

Please remember that the **extended festival registration date ENDS January 10th**. It is necessary for all of our groups to be registered by this date. We also need to know which dances you will be performing. Everyone will have until mid-March to submit a final list of their participating festival dancers.

We understand that, due to Covid, many groups have not had the opportunity to rehearse or have a facility at which to practice. Many are concerned that there isn't sufficient time to prepare the entire designated repertoire. As at every festival, the majority of dances are assigned to the "Student" group. Please remember, that the "Student" range is from 12th grade through the age of 35. Those not in 12th grade, that is 6th thru 11th grades are assigned the "Youth" group repertoire. You may also decide that your 6th graders would do better with the children's repertoire. We leave that to your discretion.

Concerns about preparing your dancers in this Covid shortened dance frame is of paramount importance to us all. Therefore, we have made a few adjustments to the repertoire. Student groups having rehearsals during the holidays can immediately include **Linksmapolké** (Youth repertoire) and **Žiežmarių polka** (Senior repertoire).

Once registration is closed, we may also be able to include Gumbinė and Subatėlė (from the Adult repertoire) to the "Student" groups. We have plans in place to choreograph borders with dancers who would frame the principal dance version of the dance. These simplifications to some of the dances would allow more groups to participate. This is particularly important for those of you who do not have sufficient time to learn the principal dance.

Also, the "Youth" group now includes **Malūnas-Malūnėlis** in their repertoire as **Kalatinis was removed** from our repertoire.

Please don't hesitate to share your difficulties and concerns with us. We are prepared to assist and guide you with any of the dances. We trust that working together we can create a beautiful and memorable festival.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday. Please stay healthy and safe.