

The Lithuanian - American Community

16th North America Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival



Caption

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The Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival is a colorful and dynamic show featuring thousands of dancers creating a magical symphony of Lithuanian folk dances, costume design and historic culture storytelling. It started in 1957, when a Chicago, when dancers from 18 U.S. and Canadian cities gathered to celebrate their cultural heritage. After rescheduling twice due to the pandemic, this year it will be the 16th festival. 35 dance groups from North America and Lithuania will perform during the final concert. Nearly 10,000 people from around the world are expected to gather for the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in historic Philadelphia - explore and share the experience!

The Dance Festival is book-ended by numerous planned activities for the July 4th weekend in Philadelphia, PA. Networking events, dances and cultural shows will take place at the Marriott Downtown hotel in center city Philadelphia. The traditional Banquet and dance will be held on Sunday evening, after performance at the Temple University Liacouras Center. There will also be a crafts fair at the Marriott Downtown hotel that features Lithuanian artisans, foods and festival memorabilia.

A weekend of joy, friendship, Lithuanian culture, American history and excitement awaits you – an event that YOU must experience and one that can not be missed!

About the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.: The Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (LAC) has 53 local chapters in 27 states and the District of Columbia. Since its founding in 1951, LAC has sought to preserve the Lithuanian cultural identity for future generations. LAC is also in the forefront of fostering the growth of the democratic institutions of the country of our heritage and of assisting Lithuania in numerous other ways. Find out more at <http://lithuanian-american.org/>.



WHO WE ARE

- + Virgus Volertas, The Chair of the Organizing Committee
- + Gintaras Grinkevicius, Art Director
- + Vytas Cupliskas, Production Director
- + Deimante Kalinauskaite, Designer
- + And many others, all volunteers!



MAIN FESTIVAL EVENTS

- + Thursday: Business Forum at the Union
- + Thursday to Sunday: Craft Fair and Kings' Village/ Marriott
Downtown
- + Friday: Welcome Concert and Dance night/ Marriott Downtown
- + Saturday: Concert, featuring P. Meskela, famous performer from
Lithuania, and Dance night/ Marriott Downtown
- + Sunday: Grand Finale Show/ Liacouras Arena
- + Sunday: Elegant Gala, Family/Youth banquet, and Dance/ Marriott
Downtown



Krista Bard, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Lithuania to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

"Our Lithuanian Dance Festival is an internationally acclaimed showcase of choreography, costume design, and textile art, and holds special significance for this region. The very first Lithuanians came to the United States via Pennsylvania in the 19th century, and Philadelphia continues to be home to one of the largest and most active Lithuanian diaspora communities in the world, continuously working to strengthen cultural, educational, economic and scientific ties. We look forward now to hosting the Lithuanian Dance Festival 'Šokių Šventė' in Philadelphia during the Welcome America festival. This country welcomed us, and we are honored to be a part of its rich heritage."

Virgus Volertas, the Chair of the Festival's Organizing Committee

"Folk music and dance have always been a very important part of the Lithuanian culture and identity. We dance and sing from one generation to another, and it unites us into one, big family. In 2020, Philadelphia will welcome thousands from this beautiful family to dance, create new memories, and celebrate together."

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Philadelphia, May 9, 2022

“A spectacular show of the folk dance that will entertain, surprise and amaze!”

On Sunday, July 3, 2022, an expected 10,000 people will gather in downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for the 16th edition of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival show. A spectacular show combines a wide range of Lithuanian folk dances and theatrical elements to tell a unique story that will entertain, surprise and amaze.

During the 4th of July weekend, this festival will feature a series of banquets, art exhibits, networking events and concerts in Center City culminating with a dynamic performance on Sunday July 3rd, paying tribute to vibrant, Lithuanian folk dance performed in synchrony by 35 dance groups. The Liacouras center arena will be filled with traditional Lithuanian music, impressive light show and nearly 1,000 dancers wearing unique folk costumes. This multigenerational event, where children perform alongside their parents, and in some cases their grandparents, is a memorable experience for all involved.

Every four years, Lithuanians from across the globe gather to celebrate their heritage at a unique festival called “Šokių Šventė.” The theme for the 2022 Sokių Šventė is “The Kings’ Story”, which is inspired by the works of renowned Lithuanian artist and composer M. K. Čiurlionis. The most recent Šokių Šventė was held in Baltimore on July 3rd, 2016, featuring over 1,800 dancers from 6 different countries.

Details on venues and events are at www.sokiusvente.org.



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**WE
WOULD
LIKE
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU**

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