



*Latvijas Nacionālās Operas Gilde* *Latvian National Opera Guild, Inc.*

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Dear friends and members of the Opera Guild,

Last year the city of Riga was selected to be the 2014 cultural capital of Europe. And for the first six months of 2015, Latvia was given responsibility for running the administration of the Council of European Nations. These positions have resulted in increased knowledge about Latvia in the rest of the world. Tourism to Latvia increased by nearly 10% in 2014 compared to the previous year. What's more, Latvia is becoming known as a country of musical excellence. One has only to look at the front cover of the Metropolitan Opera's 2015-16 season booklet; it features Latvia's Aleksandrs Antonenko in the role of Otello. (Next season, five Latvian opera stars will perform at the Met!) One has only to read the glowing press reports about Andris Nelsons, the up and coming new director of the Boston Philharmonic. Music has become a powerful tool in raising Latvia's profile.

The Latvian National Opera Guild was founded 25 years ago to help rebuild the then crumbling Latvian National Opera house. Today the building has been refurbished and enlarged, and the Latvian National Opera is strong and vibrant. The Opera Guild continues to support the LNO, but with an expanded mission - to highlight Latvian musical identity in Latvia and the world. To this end, we are sponsoring an international competition to compose a Latvian opera. The winner will be announced in June of 2016, and will receive a \$25,000 honorarium.

This fall, we have invited three beloved performers and members of the LNO - the Three Latvian Tenors - to perform concerts in Cleveland, New York City, New Jersey, Long Island and Florida.

We ask for your continued support in bringing Latvian music to a larger audience. Please join us at a Three Tenors' concert. Consider joining the Latvian National Opera Guild. Thereby you will be apprised of all the upcoming events. We thank you for your donations and your support.

The Latvian National Opera Guild



