

**Latvian Academy of Culture
COURSE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS**

Course title	Music in Latvia		
Credit points	4		
ECTS credits	6		
Amount of hours in classroom	32		
Area of studies	Culture studies–ethnomusicology		
Department			
Author of the course			
Valdis Muktupāvels			
Summary of the course			
<p>The objective of the course is to introduce different aspects of Latvian musical culture, to reveal its universal and specific features and to show its place and meaning in the life of the Latvian people, thus providing students with the necessary background knowledge to discuss and to evaluate this music.</p> <p>Different kinds of music and its contexts are presented: from traditional to modern and postmodern. Archaic vocal forms, main genres and contexts of traditional vocal music are discussed, including music of historical minorities. The main functional groups of musical instruments – shepherd, ritual, ceremonial, signalization, magic and dance music instruments, and psaltery <i>kokles</i> – are characterized. The main religions and their musical practices are briefly touched. Academic (classical) music is presented from national romanticism and choral singing to minimalism and other modern developments. Different forms of musical folklorism – from staged folklorism to folklore movement and postfolklore – are discussed. Also, popular music scene is discussed, focusing on different forms of pop, rock, jazz and the recent developments and paying certain attention to social singing and its repertoire.</p> <p>Besides theoretical discourse, students get a certain listening experience, thus enabling them to develop a personalized viewpoint on Latvian music matters. No special musical education is required.</p>			
Plan of workshops			
Theme	Week	Type of class and hours	Lecturers
Introduction: identity of Latvian musical culture	1.	lecture 2h	V.Muktupāvels
Traditional vocal and instrumental music	2.–4.	lecture 6h	–“–
Traditional music	5.	seminar 2h	–“–
Main religions and their musical practices	6.	lecture 2h	–“–
Academic music	7.–8.	lecture 4h	–“–
Song (and dance) celebration	9.	lecture 2h	–“–
Composed music	10.	seminar 2h	–“–
Musical folklorism	11.–12.	lecture 4h	–“–
Popular music	13.–14.	lecture 4h	–“–
Individual research work	15.–16.	seminar 4h	–“–

Requirements for ECTS credits
Obtaining listening experience 20%, active participation in seminars 30%, research paper and its presentation 50%
Bibliography
<p>Boiko, Martin (1999) "The Officium Defunctorum ('Office of the Dead') and the Mourning Rites in Eastern Latvia. A Preliminary Study". <i>Ritual and music</i>. Vilnius: Lithuanian Academy of Music, 29–37.</p> <p>Klotiņš, Arnolds (2002) "The Latvian Neo-folklore Movement and the Political Changes of the Late 20th Century". <i>The World of Music</i>, 44 (3), 107–130.</p> <p>Muktupāvels, Valdis (2000) "Latvia". <i>The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music</i>, vol. 8: Europe, Timothy Rice, James Porter, and Chris Goertzen, eds. New York and London: Garland publishing, Inc., 499–508.</p> <p>Muktupāvels, Valdis (2000) "On some relations between kokles styles and contexts in the 20th century". <i>Journal of Baltic Studies</i>, 31 (4), 388–405.</p> <p>Muktupāvels, Valdis (2002) "Musical Instruments in the Baltic Region: Historiography and Traditions". <i>The World of Music</i>, 44 (3), 21–54.</p> <p>Muktupāvels, Valdis (2011). "The 'Dangerous' Folksongs: The Neofolklore Movement of Occupied Latvia in the 1980s." <i>Popular Music and Human Rights</i>, Volume II: World Music, ed. by Ian Peddie. Farnham UK: Ashgate Press, 73–90.</p> <p>Šmidchens, Guntis (2014) <i>The Power of Song: Nonviolent National Culture in the Baltic Singing Revolution</i>. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press.</p>