



Vineta Sareika and the strings of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra



Foto autors Ventspils photo archive

The famous violinist Vineta Sareika and the musicians of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (LNSO) will perform at the “Latvija” concert hall. On Saturday, March 1st, at 4:00 PM, the world-renowned violinist Vineta Sareika and musicians of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra will perform at the “Latvija” concert hall, playing works by Franz Schubert, Samuel Barber, and Karl Amadeus Hartmann.

Describing the program created for Ventspils and the “Latvija” concert hall, Vineta Sareika reveals that it will be beautiful and soulful, yet also carry a serious tone: “We will start with the famous Adagio by Barber for strings, followed by Karl Amadeus Hartmann’s Concerto funebre, which is a very profound piece. It was composed in 1939, in difficult circumstances and a challenging time, which unfortunately resonates with what we are witnessing today. The second part will feature the famous Death and the Maiden by Schubert, arranged for string orchestra from the string quartet.”

An added value of Vineta Sareika’s concerts is the instrument she plays – a unique opportunity to hear the violin built by the famous violin maker Antonio Stradivari in 1683. “The Stradivari violin inspires me. While a modern instrument may have a few nuances, with this old instrument, in the quiet moments, I can discover a hundred thousand nuances. It’s like a bouquet, akin to a fine wine, that cannot be described,” says the violinist.

Vineta Sareika’s international career began in 2009 when she became a laureate of the Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition. She has collaborated with outstanding orchestras, including the London Philharmonia, the Belgian National Orchestra, the Royal Flemish Orchestra, the Lisbon Philharmonic Orchestra, and the London Chamber Orchestra. In 2022, she joined the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2023, after winning a competition, she became the concertmaster of the world-renowned collective, making history as the first woman to hold this position in the orchestra’s 141-year history. However, in February 2025, the Latvian violinist performed her final concert with the renowned ensemble. Vineta Sareika has also created programs with famous conductors such as Andris Nelsons, Paul Goodwin, Gilbert Varga, Jean-Bernard Pommier, Gérard Korsten, and many others.

Samuel Barber’s Adagio evolved from the second movement of his only string quartet. It was first performed in 1938, conducted by Arturo Toscanini, and immediately gained significant favor from the audience. Adagio also clearly highlights the composer’s tonal musical thinking, which often clashed with his contemporaries who sought their signature in modernist composition techniques. However, it is perhaps the music’s language—one that brings emotions to the forefront, unmediated, intense, and genuine—that has ensured the piece’s lasting relevance and significance even today.

Franz Schubert composed his 14th string quartet in 1824, which would go on to become one of his most remarkable works. The quartet’s title, “Death and the Maiden,” is derived from a song Schubert composed earlier, with the theme of death and the maiden being used in the second movement of the quartet. The motif of death and the maiden has been a recurring theme in German culture since the Renaissance. Although Schubert was already seriously ill at the time, it is possible that he portrayed the figure of death as the maiden’s lover in this composition. The only violin concerto by German composer Karl Amadeus Hartmann, Concerto Funebre, was composed in response to the annexation of Czechoslovakia during World War II. The concerto’s introduction uses a Hussite hymn, symbolizing the Czech centuries-long struggle for freedom. Hartmann was unafraid to find his voice within the intense landscape of 20th-century modernist music, despite the regime he did not support.

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The concert by Vineta Sareika and the musicians of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra (LNSO) is organized by SIA “Kurzemes Filharmonija” with the support of the Ventspils City Municipality and the State Culture Capital Foundation. Tickets are available at all “Bīlešu paradīze” sales points and online. In addition to the concert ticket, you can add a VIP offer – “Music Friends Club” – which provides access to the second-floor “Greenroom” at the concert hall, where you can use the cloakroom and enjoy refreshments.

- Sat, 01.03.2025
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