

Tartu Song Festival 2019 fact sheet

- **Triin Koch, Musical Director and Head Conductor of the Song Festival** – Triin Koch, musical director of the Tartu Song Festival, is head conductor of the University of Tartu Academic Women's Choir, the University of Tartu Chamber Choir, and the Tallinn Alumni Women's Choir of the University of Tartu. For many years, Koch has been a member of the artistic teams for Estonian Song Festivals, Youth Song Festivals and Tartu Song Festivals, in the capacity of general conductor and conductor.
- **Directors Anu Lamp, Riina Roose and Karl Laumets**

Participants:

- **Nursery School Young Children's Choirs** – 35 choirs/approx. 900 singers (age 6–7) (a 'special group' within the Tartu Song Festival – this type of choir will not be performing or appearing elsewhere)
- **Young Children's Choirs** – 42 choirs/approx. 2000 singers (age 7–12)
- **Boys' Choirs** – 19 choirs/approx. 800 singers
- **Children's Choirs** – 25 choirs/approx. 1000 singers (age 12–16)
- **Women's Choirs** – 35 choirs/approx. 1100 singers
- **Men's Choirs** – 18 choirs/approx. 520 singers
- **Mixed Choirs** – 64 choirs/approx. 2150 singers
- **Wind orchestras** – 9 orchestras/320 musicians

Of interest:

- **Catering for the 8500 performers at the Tartu Song Festival will be using biodegradable and biobased dishes, making this one of the 'greenest' song festivals.**
- **Wristbands for participants will be produced by Tartu-based company Haine OÜ.**
- **The water partner for the Tartu Song Festival is Haage Vesi – natural mineral water from Haage, a small village outside Tartu. Haage Vesi will produce a special edition of water to honour the much loved tradition's sesquicentennial and its birth town.**
- **The clothing partner for the Tartu Song Festival is Marat – one of the oldest clothing companies still operating in Estonia. Some of the younger singers will sing wearing Marat's t-shirts during the main concert of the festival. Luckily the shirts will also soon be available for everyone to buy in stores and online.**
- **Song Festival ice cream is made by Premia Tallinna Külmoone AS.**
- **Special Tartu Song Festival scarves are manufactured by Alpaka, a brand with roots in Estonia.**
- **The Song Festival soup also comes from Tartu – the producer is Tartu-based company Salvest, whose raw ingredients come from a radius of 100 km.**
- **The Tartu Song Festival logo depicts the river of time. The visual identity was created by Marje and Martin Eelma (Tuumik Studio).**

About the song festival:

The Estonian Song Festival tradition began in 1869, in Tartu, when – under the guidance of Johann Voldemar Jannsen – men's choirs and brass orchestras from across Estonia gathered in Tartu. In spite of the fears of its organisers, the first Song Festival, which lasted for four days, turned out to be a great success. Now, 150 years later, the Song Festival will be celebrating its birthday over three days in June, at the place of its birth. The number of tickets to be sold for the main concert will be just slightly smaller than the number of performers on stage during the main concert – approximately 8000.

TARTU SONG FESTIVAL 2019 | THE SONG FESTIVAL'S 150th ANNIVERSARY

20–22 June 2019

At the centre of the Tartu Song Festival is the celebration of the 150th anniversary at the Song Festival's birthplace and its 150 years of history.

10 June

Presentation at the Tartu New Theatre of the **song festival photo and story album 'Song Festival. Jannsen. Koidula'** (working title). This work, dedicated to the Song Festival, focuses on the origins of singing together, and the paths and milestones which finally culminated in the first large gathering of Estonians in Tartu – the celebration of the birth of a nation. The author of the text of the Song Festival album is Rein Veidemann. The album contains English language photo captions and a summary of the text. The publisher is SE&JS Publishers, in cooperation with the Tartu City Government. The book launch will be taking place in the Jannsen family's living room, i.e. in the form of a Song Festival-themed chamber opera stage design.

19 June

The **Tartu Song Festival Museum** (Jaama 14) will be opening a new permanent exhibition on song festival history. **The new permanent exhibition 'Creation of the Song Festival'** will focus on preparations for the first Song Festival, and the festival tradition which began in Tartu. The exhibition will provide visitors with an understanding of who were the people and what were the initial ideas that laid the foundation for such an important part of the Estonian identity. The exhibition will also take a look at those Song Festival traditions which have been gradually added over time to previously existing traditions, and which have, in turn, become an integral part of the Song Festival. The exhibition will explore the tradition of lighting the Song Festival flame and the torch procession route, participation in the festivals by different choir types, as well as types of instruments and how Gustav Ernesaks' work "My Fatherland is My Love" became the unofficial national anthem of the Estonian people.

20 June

Concert day featuring combined song festivals

The Estonian National Men's Choir and University of Tartu Academic Women's Choir, under the direction of Triin Koch and Mikk Üleoja, will be performing at the festive combined Tartu Song Festival and XXVII Song Celebration concert taking place at the Song Festival Church – St. Mary's Church, in Tartu. Entry by invitation. **A specially commissioned piece by Jüri Reinvere will be performed. Soloist: Kai Rüütel.**

21 June

Day of period concerts and dance performance

The three period concerts – 1869, 1919 and 1969 – invite you to travel through Song Festival history. Just before sunset, the folk dance performance "Loodud Jääma" ("Here to Stay") will begin in the Kassitoome Valley.

At 12.00, people will gather for a **church service** at Toomemägi (Dome Hill), as they did for the first time 150 years ago.

Music, text, fun, recollections, and saying things anew or in a different way enables us to travel through Tartu and 3 x 50 years of Song Festival history. The **"1869" period concert** begins at 16.00 in the yard of the Tartu Song Festival Museum, the **"1919" period concert** begins at 18.00, at the Tartu Raadi aircraft hangar and the **"1969" period concert** begins at 20.00, at Tartu University stadium.

The dance performance "Here to Stay" begins at 22.00, at Kassitoome Valley. The bands "Lindpriid" and "Kaunimate Aastate Vennaskond" will provide live music. The text will be devised and polished by the articulate Rein Pakk. The author of the idea and executive producer is Jaanus Randma.

The reflection **"Väike suurvaimude öömuusika"** ("A Little Night Music of the Greats") will begin at 23.00 at Raadi cemetery, where candles will be brought for the creators and preservers of the Song Festival as well as all those who have made us and cared for us. **Maarja Nuut** will be performing at the memorial ceremony.

23 June

Main Concert

The Main concert will start at 18.00 at the Tartu Song Festival Grounds, and will be preceded by a procession of singers-dancers from the heart of the city to the Song Festival Grounds. Choirs from outside Tartu and Tartu County will also be taking part, with visitors from across Estonia.

More than 8500 singers, from young nursery school children to grandparents, will be presenting music from Arvo Pärt, Veljo Tormis, Gustav Ernesaks, Miina Härma and many others during the main concert at the Tartu Song Festival. Taking the stage at the concert will be wind instrument orchestras, the Vanemuise Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Taavi Kull, and soloists Tõnis Mägi, Ivo Linna, Jarek Kasar, Reigo Tamm (Rahvusoper Estonia), and others.

After the main concert has ended, the celebration of the Song Festival's anniversary will continue at the Tartu Song Festival Grounds with a performance by the band Curly Strings.

Main concert repertoire: <https://tartulaulupidu.ee/2019/en/programme-of-the-main-concert/>

23 June

Victory Day Parade, in Tartu.

At the same time, 100 years will have passed since the victory at Võnnu over the Landeswehr by Estonia's forces, and 85 years since the decision by the Riigikogu to declare the day a national holiday.

Until 30 June

Song Festival-themed orienteering game in Tartu

An exciting orienteering game has been prepared in celebration of the Song Festival's anniversary, leading participants on a 90-minute adventure to locations in Tartu associated with the Song Festival and its creators. In order to participate in the game, you will need to download the orienteering application MOBO to your smartphone, and look for a map with the name "Song Festival Locations" from the permanent orienteering routes. The trail will be open for completion until 30 June.

Tartu Song Festival Homepage: <https://tartulaulupidu.ee/>

Main concert tickets are on sale via Piletilevi.