



Foto: Tõnu Kaljuste

The collaboration of Von Krahli Theatre and Nargen Opera brings to stage "Songs of Estonian Men". The performance is based upon Veljo Tormis' song cycle "Men's Songs". All 10 songs from the choral cycle "Men's Songs" are performed. In addition, three other pieces by Tormis are performed. Veljo Tormis (born 1930) is regarded to be one of the greatest living choral composers and one of the most important composers of the 20th century in Estonia. Internationally, his fame arises chiefly from his extensive body of choral music, which exceeds 500 individual choral songs. The great majority of these pieces are based on traditional ancient Estonian folksongs (runo songs), either textually, melodically, or merely stylistically. The performance "Songs of Estonian Men" begins with "Tasase maa laul" ("Song of a Level Land") - text by a renowned Estonian poet Paul-Eerik Rummo - and is brought to an end by a song "Viimane laev" ("The Last Ship") - text by Juhan Smuul. Both songs are arranged by Tõnu Kaljuste. In addition, choral scene "Raua needmine" ("Curse Upon Iron") is performed, which is a composition most often performed outside Estonia by Tormis. This piece was banned by the Soviet government, along with many other controversial works by Tormis. "Songs of Estonian Men" is the third part of folk song trilogy by Veljo Tormis, produced in collaboration with Von Krahli Theatre and Nargen Opera.

In 2004–2005 "Estonian Ballads" were performed in North Estonia, in the village of Soorinna and in 2006–2007 "Songs of Estonian Women" were performed on the island of Naissaare.

Make-up artists	Anu Konze Kaire Hendrikson
Video	Peeter Jalakas Lauri Sepp Urmas Sepp
Props	Karin Tetsmann Anne-Mai Heilmola
Special effects	Blast Wave
Provider	Kaido Kivitoa
Producers	Birgit Krullo /Von Krahli Teater/ Kertu Orro /Nargen Opera/
Graphic designer	Arbo Tammiksaar
Programme designer	Mari Kaljuste
Programme editor	Madli Pesti

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Composer	Veljo Tormis
Music director	Tõnu Kaljuste
Director	Peeter Jalakas
Technical director	Enar Tarmo
Costume designer	Reet Aus
Dance Master	Arnold Chivhalala
Musicians	Celia Roose Madis Metsamäe Imre Eenmaa
Performers	Von Krahli Theatre: Riina Maidre Taavi Eelmäe Juhan Uffsak Erki Laur Mart Koldits Nargen Opera Choir: Arno Tamm Mati Turi Rainer Vilu Martin Sildos Henry Tiisma Vahur Soonberg Jaak Johanson Joonas Kreen Jaanus Kann Lemmo Lattikas Argo Vals Raul Lobanov Vahur Parve Kuldar Schütz Ivo Onton
Choirmaster	Taniel Kirikal Tõnis Kaumann Tõnu Aav
Sound	Veronika Portsmuth Tanel Klesment Kaspar Kärner
Light	Allan Rääm
Technical arrangements	Enar Tarmo Oliver Kulpsoo Janno Jaanus Roman Neso Laupmaa Joosep Tormis

Veljo Tormis ♦ Tõnu Kaljuste ♦ Peeter Jalakas
vonkrahli.com ♦ nargenopera.ee ♦ kultuurikatel.eu

EESTI: meeste laulud

Premiere: 7th of June 2008 in Kultuurikatel