

The Singing Revolution

Music & identity : when non-violence rhymes with independence



HOW THE BALTIC COUNTRIES SANG THEIR INDEPENDENCE (1987-1991)

Thirty years later, what's left from this revolution ?

The Singing revolution (in Estonian: *Laulev revolutsioon* in Lithuanian: *Dainuojanti revoliucija*, in Latvian: *Dziesmotā revolūcija*) refers to a symbolic period evoked as the "national awakening" of the three Baltic states between the years 1987 and 1991. This somewhat peculiar title was first conceptualised by the press illustrator Heinz Valk, in an article published in 1988. It describes a series of musical events, like the nocturnal demonstrations in Estonia, where hundreds of thousands of Estonians gathered together at the *Lauluväljak*, the official arena of the

1

PREPARATION OF THE TRIP

Seeking financial help
Concerts / conferences of
the project

2

FIELD RESEARCH

May - August 2020

3

AUDIO PRODUCTION

(PODCASTS)
A "sound notebook" of
the trip : 10 episodes
(10 minutes)



"The Singing Revolution"

A series of musical events that occurred during the years 1987-1991



ANTIS

Lithuanian punk band, who initiated the "Roko Maršas", a controversial music festival



"The Baltic Way"

23rd August 1989 :
2 million people formed a human chain spanning 687km

“Laulupidu” (big song festival in Tallinn). For a few consecutive nights, Estonians gathered together to sing a common repertoire of patriotic songs in their own language, which was illegal at that time. Similar gatherings happened in Latvia at the *Vispārējie latviešu Dziesmu un Deju svētki*, a song and dance festival in Riga. In Lithuania, a postmodern music band with punk/ska and rock undertones organised the “Roko maršas” (rock march) with the idea of communicating, through music, ideas of independence of the Sąjūdis (“unity” in Lithuanian), the Nationalist Political Party, which accompanied Lithuania in its strive for independence. Singing today evokes great pride for most Balts, who, in a non violent attempt, managed to sing their independence.



LAULUVÄLJAK, THE INITIAL VENUE OF THE MOVEMENT IN ESTONIA PHOTO © LUCIE MORALES 2019

Singing on the road#2

A journalistic project of sound immersion

With music at the forefront, we will retrace this fascinating story by paying homage to the legendary sites of this revolution, under the same conditions as the previous trip; with our precious van, our recording material, and most importantly our voices.

We will leave at the end of May, for a duration of three months in order to get a deep rooted feel of these countries, with the aim of giving to the public a sensational sound experience.

“THE MOST SURPRISING THING FOR ME ISN'T THE FACT THAT ESTONIANS SURVIVED STALIN, BUT THAT THEY SURVIVED 50 YEARS OF SOVIET EDUCATION.”

[JAMES TUSTY, DIRECTOR OF THE DOCUMENTARY FILM “THE SINGING REVOLUTION”]

A FOLLOW ON...

The year 2021, being a special year, will mark the thirty years of Baltic independence and as such we fully intend to carry out a documentary on this fascinating topic which we feel so strongly about.

This upcoming trip (three months) is but a forerunner to gather the necessary contacts and information in order to make this happen.

WRITTEN BY,
LUCIE BARNOUX & LUCIE MORALES PROJECT MANAGERS OF “SINGING ON THE ROAD”

