



## INTOXICATING “HEMP” FESTIVAL IN TRAKAI

**EVENT:** THEATER FESTIVAL  
“HEMP” IN TRAKAI”  
**DATE:** III QUARTER  
**LOCATION:**

In February 1992, Trakai Royal Theater organized the first Lithuanian comedy festival called “Hemp”, after that it was decided to hold this festival in Trakai once every two years. The first director and founder of the theater Vytautas Mikalauskas remembers that in comparison with the royal name of the theater, which was invented quite quickly, the theater group had a harder time coming up with the name for the festival. There were a few options,

however, “Hemp” suited perfectly. According to the bright memory Lithuanian actress, the first professional female director, the godmother of the festival Kazimiera Kymantaitė, theater really is a drug, once you tasted it, you fall into its trap for life.

The first “Hemp” lasted for two days. At the festival, Trakai Royal Theater performed two performances: P. Petliukas-Pundzevičius the “Unbreakable Knot” and J. Gurauskas’ “Šalputris”. Two years later, the festival has become international – in addition to Lithuanian theater groups from various cities, theaters from Poland, Estonia and Latvia also took part. After the impressive opening of the festival

in Trakai island Castle, the premiere night of the Trakai Royal Theater took place – B. Dauguvietis “Žaldokynė”. The newspaper “Galvė” described the culmination of the festival opening as follows: “The performance ended after two nights, but everyone endured this theatrical show marathon.” The most revered legend of Lithuanian theater Kazimiera Kymantaitė jumped off her chair and shouted to the hall: “Trakai is for culture! It is culture!”

Trakai keeps carrying culture. Every day, with days changing for weeks, and weeks changing for months. During the theater festival “Hemp” (and not only), the locals and guests of the city gather in the hall of Trakai palace of culture to fill their hearts and souls with positive emotions. Shouts of admiration, wonder and applause



accompany each performance. Could there be a better mutual exchange for the creator, actor and spectator?





## WITH SONGS AND DANCES THROUGHOUT LITHUANIA

**EVENT: TRADITIONAL BANDS  
FESTIVAL “AT A LITTLE LAKE”  
IN TRAKAI  
DATE:  
LOCATION:**

Traditional folk music is one of the richest types of music, which contains and preserves inexhaustible historical treasures within. We can travel the paths of history and memories by listening to it. Every autumn, the city of Trakai invites all the lovers of folk music to a fun, traditional bands festival “At a little lake”.

The origins of this festival date back to the 1997, when the idea of orga-

nizing one big festival and presenting music from different regions of Lithuania – Aukštaitija, Suvalkija, Žemaitija, Pomerania and Dzūkija – was implemented. Every year, the event is attended by ensembles numbering more than ten years of existence. They promote folk music of their country in Lithuanian and foreign competitions as well as festivals. Therefore, the performances are very unique, reflecting their country and dialect. The place of the festival in Trakai is movable and the choice of form changes every year.

Those gathered during the festival are not only delighted by the music, their eyes are dazzled as well. The national clothing of the arriving musicians help to create an even clearer and



more unique picture of the represented country. Every performance is characterized by variety and color while using different stylistic means.

Song and dance unite both young and elderly. It's a great way to promote communality and unite Lithuanian regions that have many differences and even more similarities. Traditional



bands festival "At a little lake" is a great opportunity get closer to the culture of different regions, learn to recognize, enjoy and foster them while enjoying heart-warming and non-boring music.





# DANCE COMPETITION AND THE TRAVELING CLOG

**EVENT: SENIOR FOLK DANCE  
COMPETITION “CLOG ON” IN  
TRAKAI**

**DATE:**

**LOCATION:**

Much of everything is composed in Lithuanian folk songs and dances, and what a unique as well as original character lies in them. Folk art is closely related to the environment around us: flat fields, forests, streams and lakes of Lithuania. It's also related to hard work, which was made easier by folk songs and dances. Folk art is strongly expressed, created by unknown authors, who love something that's

made in Lithuania with all their hearts.

In order to not only preserve but also nurture the national and cultural identity of the country, Trakai invites citizens and guests to the republic festival of senior folk dances “Clog on” every year. The festival became an annual tradition back in 2010. The author and inventor of the event idea is the dance group called “Lendvarė” and its leader Rimutė Blikertienė. Step by step, this competition expanded to an international scale, when guests from the neighboring Baltic States and Poland joined the ranks of the festival. Every year, all the gathered groups actively compete for a traditional-looking festival prize – the Clog,

created especially for this event by the folk artist Petras Pranskevičius. After being in the care of the winners, the Clog returns to its homeland Trakai every year, and after the competition it travels to its new home.

Beginning of the festival is always marked by the last year's winners. After the performances have rippled, it's time for the competent judges of the festival to choose a new winner of the competition, who can be proud of the opportunity to bring the grand prize to their homeland. The main goal of the event is to bring together individuals who share similar hobbies and views, who are partial to folk art, and who are brought together by a lasting love for dance and a strong desire to share it with others. The aim is to develop not only national but also intercultural tolerance, the aim of which is to familiarize with, understand and take an interest in the folk culture of differ-



ent nations. Folk dances are excellent means of self-expression and communication, forming national self-awareness as well as actively attracting groups and art-loving spectators. After all, the fate of a nation isn't determined by rules or laws, but by its own character and fostering of its roots.

