



Šančiai Community Opera
“Cabbage Field”

Esch2022 European Capital
of Culture, Lommelshaff,
Differdange, LUX.

2022 06 09 (Thurs) / 10
(Friday)

Tickets: [Book here](#)
Starts at 19:30pm

**Come, consume vitamin C
and peace, is how we
introduce the “Cabbage
Field” opera.**

It started out as a community opera process in 2018 in the Šančiai neighbourhood of Kaunas. The idea for an opera came from the barrack site called “The Cabbage Field”, the local history and the potency of a creative community. The community created a libretto, followed by an Opera school, rehearsals and outdoor performances. The opera troupe include nonprofessional and professional artists, who share a sense of belonging to the neighbourhood. The music was composed by Vidmantas Bartulis, National prize award winner, who passed away before the last part of the opera was finished.

The action of the opera takes place at the end of the 1930s, in the Šančiai neighbourhood, at the army field near to its cabbage cellars. The people of Šančiai gather to make sauerkraut. Two opposing groups meet here: one led by Genelis and the other – by Antanas. Genelis insults Antanas and steps on his foot. A fight breaks out between the two groups. All of this is watched by Genelis sister Rozalija. She decides to step in and stop the fight. Antanas recognises Rozalija, who he had not seen for many years, and begins to talk to her. They fall for each other. But beautiful feelings are interrupted by the war. Men go to war. Women remain at home to suffer the horror and violence of war. Soldiers try to rape Rozalija, but she is rescued by Franė, the brave woman from Genelis group. At the end of the war, tired and sad, Antanas and Genelis return to their homes. Rozalija and Franė do not recognise them. Laughing at the old looking men, they tell them about what happened during the war. Antanas and Genelis become friends. They promise that from now on there will be peace in Šančiai and everything that was destroyed will be rebuilt. They start to gather the community at the table for cabbage soup.

The opera is an example of the Faro Convention and the Rome Charter, where local people, without help or permission, determine their own cultural heritage and contemporary expression. In 2016 the community reclaimed the contaminated piece of land and named it “The Cabbage Field”. This initiative was awarded by United Cities Local Government network’s a Prize for Culture, as a good practice expression of a community’s right to its own cultural expression.

So, come and share with us an artistic experience, a bowl of cabbage soup and use your imagination for how your own community story could come to life!

More information about the community opera process: [OPERA - Genius Loci \(sanciubendruomene.lt\)](http://OPERA - Genius Loci (sanciubendruomene.lt))

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CREDITS :

Concept authors and producers - Ed Carroll, Vita Gelūnienė

Composer - Vidmantas Bartulis (1954-2020)

Director & Choreographer - Lina Puodžiukaitė-Lanauskienė

Characters - Snieguolė Urbonienė, Vaidas Bartušas, Ingrida Laurinaitienė, Virginijus Baranauskas. Lina Puodžiukaitė-Lanauskienė

Costume Design - Kristina Čyžiūtė-Svirskienė

Choir - Arnoldas Zdanevičius, Audronė Vaivadienė, Aušra Grigaravičiūtė, Carolina Pailhe, Dangirutė Pikšrienė, Ed Carroll, Eglė Staskūnienė, Elena Vanagaitė, Erdvilas Jakulis, Irena Kavaliauskienė, Jokūbas Vanagas, Nijolė Beinorienė, Valentina Danilevičienė, Palmira Ragauskienė, Ramunė Šarkauskienė, Roma Grigienė, Rima Snukiškienė, Rita Namikė, Saverija Paliulionytė, Saulius Vytas Pikšrys, Ugnė Laurinaitytė, Vilma Ragauskienė, Vita Gelūnienė, Žygimantas Ragauskas

String quartet - Karolina Beinarytė-Palekauskienė, Aistė Mikutytė, Eglė Lapinskė, Saulius Bartulis

Libretto authors - Arnoldas Zdanevičius, Daiva Juonytė, Greta Pangonytė, Indrė Mačiulytė, Izolina Paukštienė, Juozas Surblys, Linvydas Krinickas, Rūta Mickevičiūtė-Songailienė, Saverija Paliulionytė, Tomas Lagūnavičius, Vita Gelūnienė