

# Top Ten Personalities Known for Their Contribution in Latvia's Culture and Education.

---





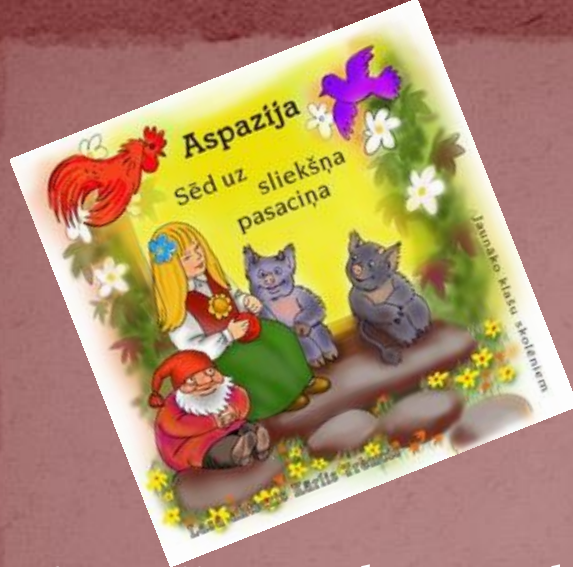
# Rainis

1865-1929



- Rainis was the pseudonym of Jānis Krišjānis Pliekšāns.
- Rainis was a prominent Latvian poet, playwright, translator and politician.
- He affected the Latvian literary language development.
- Rainis was one of the national leaders of the Revolution of 1905 in Latvia. With the failure of the Revolution, he emigrated to Switzerland.
- He and his wife Aspazija served as the spiritual leaders for the fight for Latvian independence.
- He was the Minister of Education and a member of Saeima (Parliament).
- During the 1920s, Rainis was among the candidates considered for a Nobel Prize in Literature.





# Aspazija

## 1865-1943

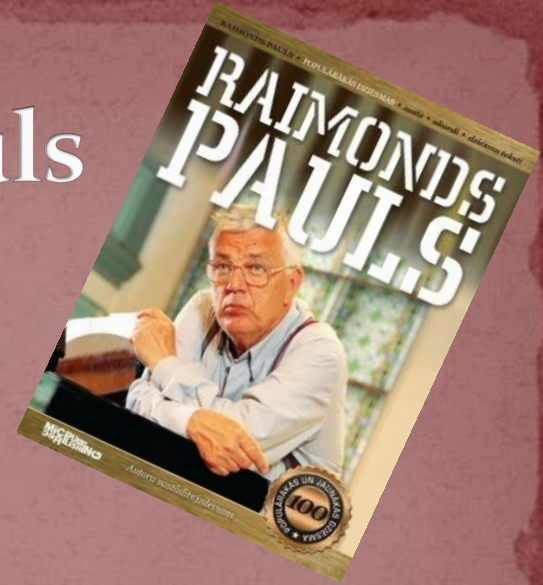


- Aspazija was the pseudonym of Elza Pliekšāne (born Johanna Elza Lizete Rozenberga)
- Aspazija's talent was recognized in drama, journalism, and as a literary critic.
- Aspazija and Rainis married in 1897 and together they became a literary force.
- Aspazija was active in the feminist movement. Latvia became one of the first countries in the world to grant women full voting rights (1918), as soon as declaring independence.
- Aspazija was a member of the Parliament of Latvia from 1920 to 1934.
- She wrote many poems and plays for children, for example- "Sēd uz sliekšņa pasaciņa".



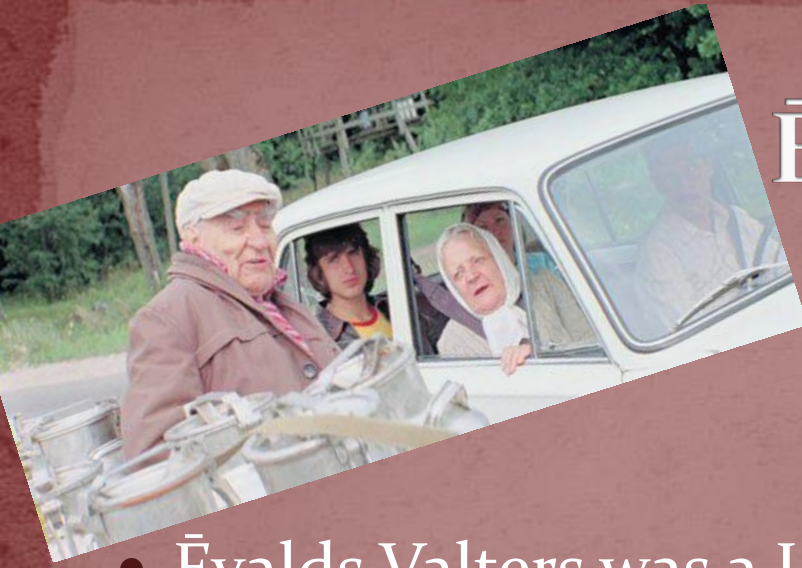
# Raimonds Pauls

## 1936



- Raimonds Pauls is a Latvian composer and piano player well known in Latvia and world-wide.
- He is the most distinguished composer of Latvian popular music.
- His unique music has been performed in countless countries and in the most prestigious concert halls.
- Pauls has composed music for six musical films and musical theaters, three ballets, and over 50 movies and theater performances.
- He has composed more than 500 songs, 70 songs for children and more than 90 albums with songs and instrumental music.





# Ēvalds Valters

1894-1994



- Ēvalds Valters was a Latvian rifleman, a well-known actor and writer.
- The most popular movies in which he had starred are “Limuzīns Jāņu Nakts krāsā.”, “Maija un Paija” and “Vella kalpi.”
- All his life he played in theaters and the audience loved him.

# Imants and Gido Kokars



- Twin brothers Imants(1921-2011) and Gido(1921) were born in Latvia.
- Imants Kokars was a Latvian pedagogue and conductor. He was awarded the Order of the Three Stars, third class.
- His twin brother Gido Kokars was principal conductor of several Latvian Song Festivals.
- Gido has taught at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music and has been principal conductor of several Latvian Song Festivals.





# Emīls Dārziņš

## 1875-1910



- Emīls Dārziņš was a Latvian composer, conductor and music critic.
- E.Dārziņš was born in teachers' family. His parents were very musical.
- A well known music school was named in honor of Emīls Dārziņš.
- He wrote vocal music(choral and art songs), but he also composed orchestral music, though only one piece, "Melanholiskais valsis" (Melancholic waltz) has survived.



# Baumaņš Kārlis

## 1835-1905



- Ako was the pseudonym of Baumaņš Kārlis.
- He was one of the first composers in Latvia.
- He was also a playwright and poet.
- He is the author of the lyrics and music of *Dievs, svētī Latviju!* (“God bless Latvia!”), the national anthem of Latvia.
- Kārlis Baumanis was the first composer to use the word “Latvia” in the lyrics of a song, in the 19th century, when Latvia was still a part of the Russian Empire.





# Jāzeps Vītols

1863-1948



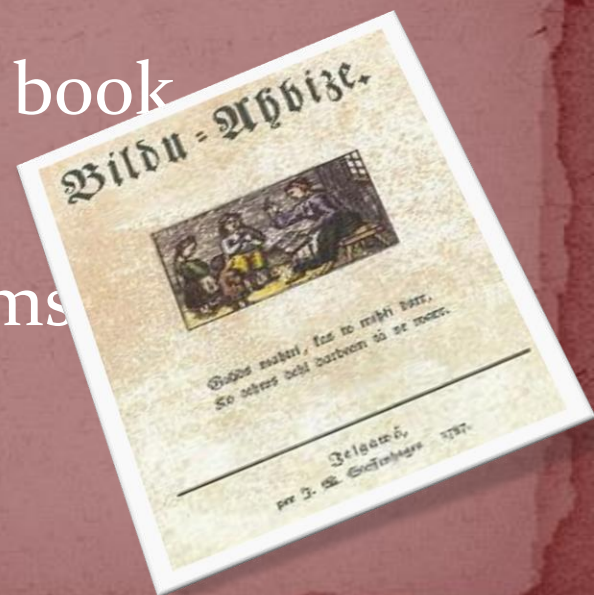
- Jāzeps Vītols was a distinguished Latvian composer and music teacher.
- He composed 850 orchestral, vocal and piano compositions.
- He became director of the Latvian Opera and in 1919 founded the Latvian Conservatory of Music. From 1919 until 1944 he was rector of the Conservatory .
- Jāzeps Vītols promoted national folk-song festivals throughout Latvia.



# Gothards Frīdrihs Stenders

## 1714-1796

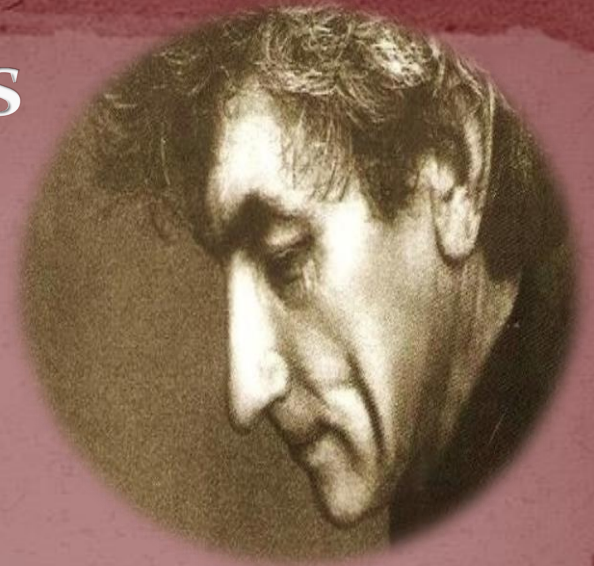
- G.F.Stenders or Ģederts Fridriks Štenders was a German priest in Latvia.
- He wrote the first Latvian alphabet book
- He wrote the first Latvian German dictionary as well as stories and poems





# Imants Ziedonis

## 1933-2013



- Imants Ziedonis is the most loved Latvian poet, publicist and short prose writer, translator .
- As one of the most open voices in poetry during the Soviet occupation era, he repeatedly risked appearing as a dissident to the Soviet leaders.
- He was a leading voice in the perestroika period toward the end of the Soviet occupation .
- He was one of the Supreme Council members who voted for the Declaration on the Restoration of Independence of Latvia.



Thank you for your attention!

