



# ***ESTONIA SONG FESTIVAL***

## ***2 to 5 July 2009 Tallinn***

### **WELCOME TO THE 2009 SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL “WORLD TREE” AND WELCOME TO ESTONIA!**

Estonians come together every few years, sing ecstatically for a day or two, in an emotionally charged song festival, called LAULUPIDU.

Tickets are available for sale now through Well Connected travel contact [barry@wctravel.com.au](mailto:barry@wctravel.com.au) or phone 02 9975 2355

This festival is a heart warming event looked forward to by all generations of the Estonian community.

The total number of performers in the Song and Dance Celebration in 2004 was 34 000. They performed before an audience of 200 000 in one concert - 600 000 followed public broadcasts in radio a & television. The Song Festival is held in Tallinn – Estonia’s medieval capital, which has kilometres of winding cobblestone streets, red roofs, watchtowers in the Old City walls that surround the Old Town and a whole storybook of medieval houses. This rich medieval town was forgotten for 50 years in the Soviet times and now, more than ever, Tallinn is attracting tourists to discover the spirit of old medieval times. Don’t miss the Tallinn’s famous Gothic Town Hall and the lively Town Hall square, the heart of the Old City with outdoor cafés, shops and never-ending activity. Wandering on the original medieval street network, discover hidden courtyards, churches, Hanseatic period guild and citizen’s houses.

#### **The historical overview of Estonian Song Celebrations**

The nationwide Song Festival tradition began with the first Song Festival in Tartu, June 18- 20, 1869. This was mostly due to the growing hobby of singing and wind-instrument playing in the first half of the 18th century, in Kanepi, Põlva, Laiuse, Torma, Põltsamaa and in other places of Estonia. Common singing days were held- choirs gathered to sing in Anseküla (1863), in Jõhvi (1865), in Uulu (1867) etc. In the 19th century, Estonia was a province of a Russian Empire where German upper class landlords ruled the Estonian lower class- the peasants.

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Well Connected Travel Pty Ltd (Lic no: 2TA 4224), 67 Ferguson Street, Forestville NSW 2087 Australia  
**TEL 1300 88 38 52 or 02 9975 2355; FAX 02 9451 6646; EMAIL [info@wctravel.com.au](mailto:info@wctravel.com.au)**