FOREWORD

We hereby present to our esteemed readers the 34th volume of Klaipėda University's periodical *Res Humanitariae*. It has 15 articles from various areas of the humanities, testifying to traditional and contemporary approaches to language, culture, literature and society. As in previous issues, this volume presents the work both of scholars with strong academic and scientific experience, and young researchers just starting out on their scientific careers. The publication reflects the diversity and depth of the humanities, inviting readers to get acquainted with current research topics in literary studies, art studies, musicology, ethnology, folklore studies and ethnomusicology.

The first three articles in the volume are devoted to literary studies. The doctor of humanities, associate professor, senior research fellow in the Department of Philology of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University **Žavinta Sidabraitė** presents research on M. Jankus' satire as a creative and ideological response to J.F. Kelkis' work, revealing the differences in the images of social and ethnic groups constructed by both authors, and highlighting the ideological opposition of two eras, educational modernisation and the Romantic National Revival.

The doctor of humanities, associate professor, senior research fellow in the Department of Modern Literature at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius **Vigmantas Butkus** discusses Latvian writers' non-fiction publications about the Curonian Spit, its inhabitants, its nature, and other aspects. The author pays particular attention to the 1930s and 1940s, during which classics of Latvian literature wrote most extensively about this piece of land.

The doctor of humanities, research fellow in the Department of Folklore Archive at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore **Greta Paskočiumaitė-Petruškevičienė** examines how the story of the Lithuanian partisan war was suppressed during the Soviet occupation, and how it nevertheless survived in partisan families. Competing interpretations of the resistance and ways of transmitting memory are analysed, based on partisan documents, the underground press, Soviet propaganda sources, and oral history interviews with former partisans' children.

Two articles reflect the problematics of art history. The first is dedicated to discussing current issues in theatre studies. The doctor of arts, assistant in the Department of Philology at Klaipėda University and head of the Student Theatre **Jūratė Grigaitienė** compares several popular mono-performances created using the principle of documentary theatre, in which actors openly reflect and represent authentic experiences, problems, conflicts, childhood traumas and other issues. She notes that in these performances, the actor and the character they create merge into a single entity. Self-reflection on the stage often approaches public confession, art therapy or psychodrama, while artistic fiction remains only as a stimulus, aiming to convey various situations in the protagonist's life more emotionally and from different perspectives.

The second article on the subject of art history testifies to the importance of musicological research. The doctor of arts **Jūratė Landsbergytė-Becher**, a research fellow at the Lithuanian Cultural Research Institute in Vilnius, argues that the beginning of Lithuania's revival after the stagnation of the Soviet era coincided with one of the first works by Bronius Kutavičius, predicting a change of eras. *Prutena. The Flooded Village* was inspired by Liudvikas Rėza's poem about his village of Karvaičiai, which was covered by the sands of Neringa. In this way, two artists who were destined to symbolise the reborn spirit of Lithuania meet here, Liudvikas Rėza (1776–1840) and Bronius Kutavičius (1932–2021). This shows how the fact of the nation's resurrection from oblivion, hidden in cultural and natural phenomena, is formed.

Three articles discuss the results of ethnographic research. In the first, two Bulgarian ethnographers, doctors of humanities, associate professors at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies and the Department of Comparative Folklore Studies with the Ethnographic Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences **Jana Gergova** and **Lina Gergova** examine how Bulgarian migrant communities in Argentina and Canada form and maintain their culinary identity in the face of distance, time and generational change. Based on field research conducted by both of them in 2011–2022, and an analysis of archival material, migrant publications and websites, the authors reveal how 'traditional' Bulgarian

cuisine operates in the context of a dynamic mediator between cultural memory and adaptation. It shows that the festive food is much more resilient than everyday cooking, and that ethno-entrepreneurship and digital networks provide new opportunities for preserving culinary traditions and transmitting them to future generations.

Raimonda Rauluševičienė, a young ethnographer and PhD student in the Department of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius, analyses in her article the festive practices of a pregnant woman's pregnancy in Lithuania at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. These include a photographic session with the pregnant woman, her washing, the baby's welcoming party, and revealing the baby's gender. These emerging new festive practices have not been recorded in traditional rural culture, but today, as the author's research has shown, they bring together the pregnant woman's relatives, family members, relatives and friends, and help make sense of the fact of the pregnancy. All this is based on the material she collected during her ethnographic field research, understanding pregnancy as a period of transformation, and treating the festive practices of pregnancy as forms of pregnancy certification, helping to make sense of the waiting period.

Agnieszka Jeż, a Polish scholar, doctor of arts, curator, librarian and researcher at the E. Ringelblum Jewish History Institute in Warsaw, is known for her interdisciplinary research in ethnology and socio-cultural anthropology. Her article examines in detail the intertwining of modernity and Jewish traditions that accompanied the development of cultural practices and Zionist youth organisations in interwar Poland. Based on an analysis of press sources from this period, she examines two organisations, Hashomer Hatzair and Akiba. Each sought to create its own cultural capital, relying to a different extent on the selection of elements and their change, in a process that is worth calling the essence of the creation of tradition.

Two articles are prepared by researchers into oral folklore. The doctor of humanities **Vita Džekčioriūtė**, a research fellow in the Department of Oral Folklore at the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius, studies children's frightening expressions in the late 20th and early 21st centuries in Lithuania, trying to answer the question, whether it is a relic or a continuation of traditional folklore practices? Her article aims to look at these frightening expressions from a contemporary perspective: what is their significance in raising children, and what changed forms have these texts taken today? The author's research revealed that since the second half of the 20th century, as traditional lifestyles and children's upbringing have changed, the nature of frightening expressions has also changed: they are used less often, the frightening subjects have

changed, they are presented in milder forms, and they are less mythologised. Thus, they are revealed as a continuation of a traditional form of folklore that has undergone certain transformations, due to changes in life circumstances.

Liina Saarlo, a doctor of folklore sciences and senior research fellow at the Estonian Folklore Archives and the Estonian Literature Museum in Tartu, presents in her article the results of research into the intertwining of oral and written traditions in the collections of the Estonian Folklore Archives. She understands that the formation of Estonian folklore collections reflects the opposition between archaism and modernity, testifying to the fact that traditional musical folklore was the cornerstone of the national identity and ethnic historiography in the 19th century. Authenticity, based on dialectical texts, their historicity and philological accuracy, dominated the practice of collecting, aiming to save 'old treasures' from their destruction and disappearance in a modernising society. This study examines the interaction of the oral and printed traditions in descriptions of runic songs, both by carefully reading archival texts supplemented by historical publications, and by using data from the Estonian Runic Songs Database and the associated FILTER database. The method combines quantitative pattern identification with qualitative, contextual interpretation, addressing the challenges that arise when analysing dialectical, poetic texts.

Ethnomusicological research is presented in the last five articles in this publication. The first is devoted to the testimonies of residents of the Donetsk region of Ukraine, currently engulfed in the flames of war, about the state of local musical traditions during the Holodomor period and afterwards. The authors of the article are two prominent Ukrainian ethnomusicologists, **Larysa Lukashenko**, a candidate of arts and head of the Musical Ethnology Research Laboratory at Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Academy of Music, and **Yuriy Rybak**, a candidate of arts, associate professor, and vice-rector for scientific affairs at the Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Academy of Music. It is shown how the Donetsk region is characterised by a complex and dynamic history, a unique culture, and a tragic fate. It discusses how extreme conditions affected traditional rituals and the musical folklore during difficult famines. Folk songs are studied which reflect the attitude of the people of the Donetsk region at the time to the Soviet way of life. The study concludes that, despite the prolonged ethnocide and Russification, Ukrainian songs and traditions in the area have survived almost up to the present day, but due to recent tragic events, this aspect of the intangible cultural heritage has been irreversibly destroyed.

Krzysztof Hliniak, a doctor of culture and religious studies, historian, dance theorist, choreologist and dance anthropologist, studies the challenges of continuing traditions and modernity in the national and ethnic dance heritage

of the Kraków region and the Lesser Poland voivodeship. His article presents the importance of the choreographic heritage to national minorities, such as Belarusians, Armenians, Slovaks, Ukrainians and Jews, as well as to the Polish and Roma ethnic minorities. It also discusses the attitudes of individuals belonging to these minorities towards these processes. In-depth interviews and informal conversations were conducted with participants from the minorities about the dance heritage and its importance to their communities. Their approach to phenomena such as the commercialisation, folklorisation and (self)folklorisation of the heritage, as well as to its functioning in the global cultural market, is discussed. The findings support the thesis that this approach is an important part of the intangible cultural heritage of the communities in question, and in some cases the basis of their identity. Although the respondents were aware of the processes mentioned, they expressed a mostly conservative approach to changes in the heritage, and sought to pass it on unchanged to the next generation.

Daiva Račiūnaitė-Vyčinienė, a doctor of humanities (art history), professor and head of the Department of Ethnomusicology at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre in Vilnius, presents the unique rhythm formula RF 5+3, revealing its genre and stylistic connections in the context of traditional Lithuanian singing. The main methods of the research are historical and typological comparison, and structural and semiotic analysis. The scientific novelty of this scientific article lies in the fact that the unique RF 5+3 is analysed in the context of interweaving different musical styles and genres, seeing the prospects for further broad comparative research in the light of ethnogenesis. RF 5+3 combines two fundamentally different styles in the Lithuanian tradition, monophony (southeast Lithuania) and linear polyphony/polymodal *sutartinės* (northeast Aukštaitija).

The doctor of humanities and professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities of Kaunas University of Technology and the Department of Ethnomusicology at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre **Rytis Ambrazevičius** discusses phenomena of musical perception, pitch, harmony and intonation which can lead to misinterpretation. The result of the juncture of two emic systems, the original sound system and equal 12-degree temperament, may be the so-called chromaticisms and 'Greek harmonies'. Performance rules identified by the author also determine slight variations in intonation, depending on the melodic and harmonic context, which can be misinterpreted as chromaticisms. The notations of the melodies of songs from Lithuania Minor are analysed, and the expression of the aforementioned phenomena is seen in them. The fact that chromaticisms and harmonic changes in these notations arose due to misinterpretation is evidenced by the notes of the melody writers about the

peculiar intonation of the singers, and by comparisons with the results of the measurement of sound recordings of other musical dialects.

The doctor of humanities, professor, senior research fellow in the Department of Philology of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities at Klaipėda University **Lina Petrošienė** writes about the Prussian-Lithuanian songs collected by Ludwig Rhesa at the beginning of the 19th century, the history of their publication and translation, and the practice of their revival, applying theories of cultural memory and performativity. The principles of editing and translating reveal the constant adaptation of texts in different cultural contexts. Analysing the audio and video recordings, publications and long-term activities of 11 folklore ensembles (1970–2025), three directions of interpretation of Rhesa's songs have been identified: historical-ethnographic, ethnomusicological, and mixed. The author shows that the performance of these songs is a creative-performative process, in which the texts acquire new meanings. The unique source of sung folklore is presented as a dynamic phenomenon of the cultural memory, combining the continuity of tradition and constant change.

The Reviews section features one publication. **Halyna Pshenichkina**, a Doctor of Humanities (Ethnology) and Senior Research Fellow at Folklore Archive Department, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Vilnius, reviews the scholarly study and comprehensive bibliographic compendium "Lithuanian Ethnomusicology at the Turn of the Centuries (1980–2020)", authored by **Rimantas Sliužinskas**, an ethnomusicologist, Doctor of Humanities (Ethnology), Professor, and Senior Research Fellow at Department of Philology, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Klaipėda University – the work was published by Klaipėda University Press in 2025.

The Chronicles section presents overviews of three academic conferences organized by the Department of Philology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Klaipėda University. **Rimantas Balsys**, Dean of the Faculty, Professor, Doctor of Humanities (Ethnology), presents a chronology of Lithuanian studies in Klaipėda (1971–2026). This chronology is based on a paper he delivered at the 5th International Scientific Conference "Baltic Languages and Cultures", an event marking the 55th anniversary of Lithuanian studies in Klaipėda and the 85th birth anniversary of Professor **Audronė Jakulienė-Kaukienė**. Professor **Lina Petrošienė**, Doctor of Humanities (Ethnology) and Senior Research Fellow at the same Department, together with PhD Candidate **Rasa Balsevičienė** reviews the origins, evolution, and future prospects of the International Scientific Conferences "The Interaction of Tradition and Modernity", which has been held here since 2010. **Aistė Šiaulytė**, a PhD student and English studies specialist at the Department, presents the results of the Interna-

tional Student Scientific and Practical conference "English Studies: The Key to a World of Discovery".

Regrettably, this issue also includes an In Memoriam section. Professor **Dalia Kiseliūnaitė**, Doctor of Humanities (Philology), pays tribute to the late Associate Professor, Doctor of Humanities (Philology) **Jonas Bukantis**, a long-standing colleague whose academic and pedagogical career came to an unexpected end this year.

As usual, the 34th volume of *Res Humanitariae* brings together the creative and analytical efforts of different generations of Lithuanian and foreign scholars, from Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland and Ukraine, to reveal the diversity of the humanities. We hope the articles in this volume will not only be a source of information but also an inspiration for further research and discussion. We invite readers to join us on this intellectual journey, contributing to the expansion of our cultural and scientific horizons.

Professor Dr Rimantas Sliužinskas
Editor