

Composer Pēteris Vasks receives the highest award in music – The Grand Music Award in the nomination "For Lifetime Achievement"

On 23 February 2025, the "Lielais Dzintars" concert hall in Liepāja hosted the award ceremony for Latvia's highest national music award – the Grand Music Award.

The award "For Lifetime Achievement" was presented to composer Pēteris Vasks, whose compositions are commissioned and interpreted by world-renowned artists, recorded by leading record labels and published by one of the world's most influential music publishers - *Schott Music*. Such giants of the performing arts have commissioned new works by Pēteris Vasks as *Kronos Quartet* and *Albrecht Mayer*, *Hilliard Ensemble* and *Sol Gabetta*, the *Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra* and *Juha Kangas*, *Artemis Quartet* and *David Geringas*, *Gidon Kremer* and *Kremerata Baltica*, *Maxim Rysanov* and many others.

The composer's works include chamber music, works for choir, extended vocal-instrumental opuses and orchestral scores, including *Musica Dolorosa* for string orchestra (1983), which is included in Latvia's Cultural Canon, three symphonies and several concerts for flute, oboe, English horn, viola, violin, cello... His chamber music is particularly marked by his now iconic solo works, including *Grāmata čellam* (The Book for Solo Cello) (1978) and *Ainava ar putniem* (Landscape with Birds) for flute (1980), and six string quartets, scores for piano trio and piano quartet, as well as works for wind quintet and piano.

The importance of the master's music in Latvia is also reflected in the music festival *April of Pēteris Vasks' Music*, held every spring in Cēsis.

Pēteris Vasks is Commander of the Order of the Three Stars (2001) and recipient of the Cabinet of Ministers Award (2016). He has been awarded the Grand Music Award several times – in 1993 for the choral ballad *Litene*, in 1997 – for the violin concerto *Tālā gaisma* (Distant Light), in 2000 – for the Second Symphony, in 2020 – for the Sixth String Quartet – and he is honoured now for his lifetime achievement.