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The national instrument of Lithuania, the kanklės, which is only a century old, has already made its way to New York and has made an impact on local audiences with its uniquely poignant sound.

We are grateful to charismatic performer Simona Smirnova for bringing this new authentic material to the canon. This collection is a combination of professional, deep, and meaningful opuses for the kanklės. “Kanklės in New York” will undoubtedly enrich the repertoire of the instrument and will spread widely among its performers. The colorful and interesting musical pieces presented in this book are rich in their performance techniques and are an excellent resource for both young and more experienced artists.

This publication is also a wonderful opportunity to experience New York City through Smirnova’s eyes. “Kanklės in New York” is in-depth and modern, and plays an important role in preserving Lithuanian traditions and representing them globally.

**Professional kanklės player
Aistė Bružaitė, PhD**

Associate professor, Doctor of Arts
Head of the Folk Instruments Department
at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre

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Here is a masterpiece to understand kanklės, the national instrument of Lithuania. It is so beautifully presented that even if you are not a musician, you can listen and learn so much about the music and culture of Lithuania. When Simona adds her vocals on top of kanklės, it becomes an icing on a cake! Highly recommend it for all!

Falu (Falguni Shah)

GRAMMY winning artist, educator, composer

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“Kanklės in New York” book and audio recordings are the very first introduction of the Lithuanian zither - kanklės to the music scene in the United States and worldwide. Simona is successfully building bridges between Eastern European folklore and modern music worldwide. Most of the world didn’t know what kanklės were, before Simona introduced us to it. “Kanklės in New York” is a great way to learn about the instrument, how it sounds and where it can be applied.”

Ricky Kej

2X Grammy® Award Winner
Billboard #1 Artist (USA), GQ Hero 2020

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“Kanklės in New York” is a book of charming melodies for the Lithuanian zither. The melodies are in the folk tradition, although many of them are originally composed for the instrument. They range in difficulty from easy to quite difficult, and the book comes with a complete set of recordings by the author.

Hubert Howe

New York Composers Circle Executive Director,
Emeritus Professor of Music, Queens College C.U.N.Y.

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