

RESTORATION OF MATERIALS FROM THE GERMAN THEATRE ARCHIVE OF RIGA CITY AT THE COLLECTION PRESERVATION CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA

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The collection of scores, librettos, and other materials related to musical theatre from the Riga First City German Theatre (hereinafter – Riga City Theatre) became part of the holdings of the National Library of Latvia in 2012, after having changed several locations. The foundation of the collection is the theatre's library, established during its period of activity (1782–1919). Since research on the materials began in 2019 — initially involving cataloguing and systematization – the collection has gradually revealed its uniqueness. In the current phase, the work continues with an in-depth study of each musical production. Its value and relevance to Latvian music history are confirmed by notes found in the materials regarding performances and participants, as well as information that enables the reconstruction of historical productions today (for example, conductors' annotations in the scores). The materials are intended to be exhibited at the National Library of Latvia in 2027.

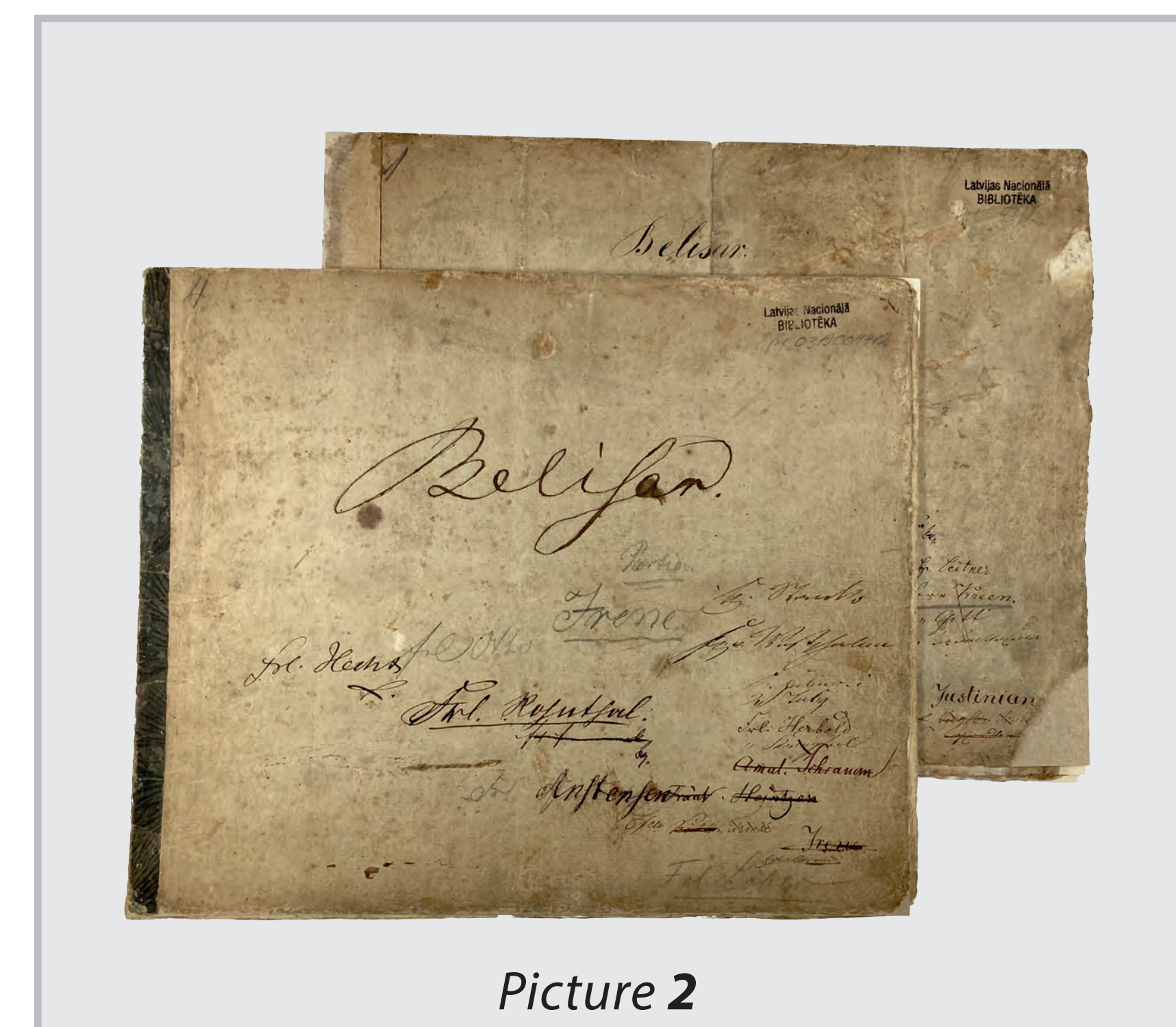
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Sheet Music Bindings: *Belisar* by Gaetano Donizetti (see Picture 1).

The notes are written on medium-weight handmade paper; one page in the middle is made of a different, thinner type of paper. The pages are irregularly sewn together with linen thread. On the first page: the title, the composer's name, various handwritten annotations, and an ink stamp from the National Library of Latvia. The paper is yellowed, heavily soiled, with grey dust deposits, various stains, and water damage. There are folds, creases, different types of tears, and small paper losses. The binding has disintegrated. The materials have been disinfected. Dry cleaning was carried out. The pH level of selected stains was measured. Some stains were treated by swabbing. The sheets were mended and pressed. The pages were resealed with linen thread (see Picture 2). A custom-made folder was prepared for storage.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4

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The sheet music is a handwritten copy, bound: *Der Sänger und der Schneider* by Friedrich von Drieberg (see Picture 3). Written on medium-weight handmade paper. The folded gatherings are sewn with linen thread. The binding block contains various annotations and an ink stamp from the National Library of Latvia. A paper label with the title is affixed to the cover. The paper is slightly yellowed, heavily soiled, with dust deposits and various stains. There are tears and small paper losses. The binding is partially disintegrated and deformed. The edges and corners of the cover are deformed, with material loss. The spine of the cover has paper losses and tears. Dry cleaning was performed. Tears and paper losses in the block were mended. The cover was restored and retouched (see Picture 4). A storage box was made.



Picture 5

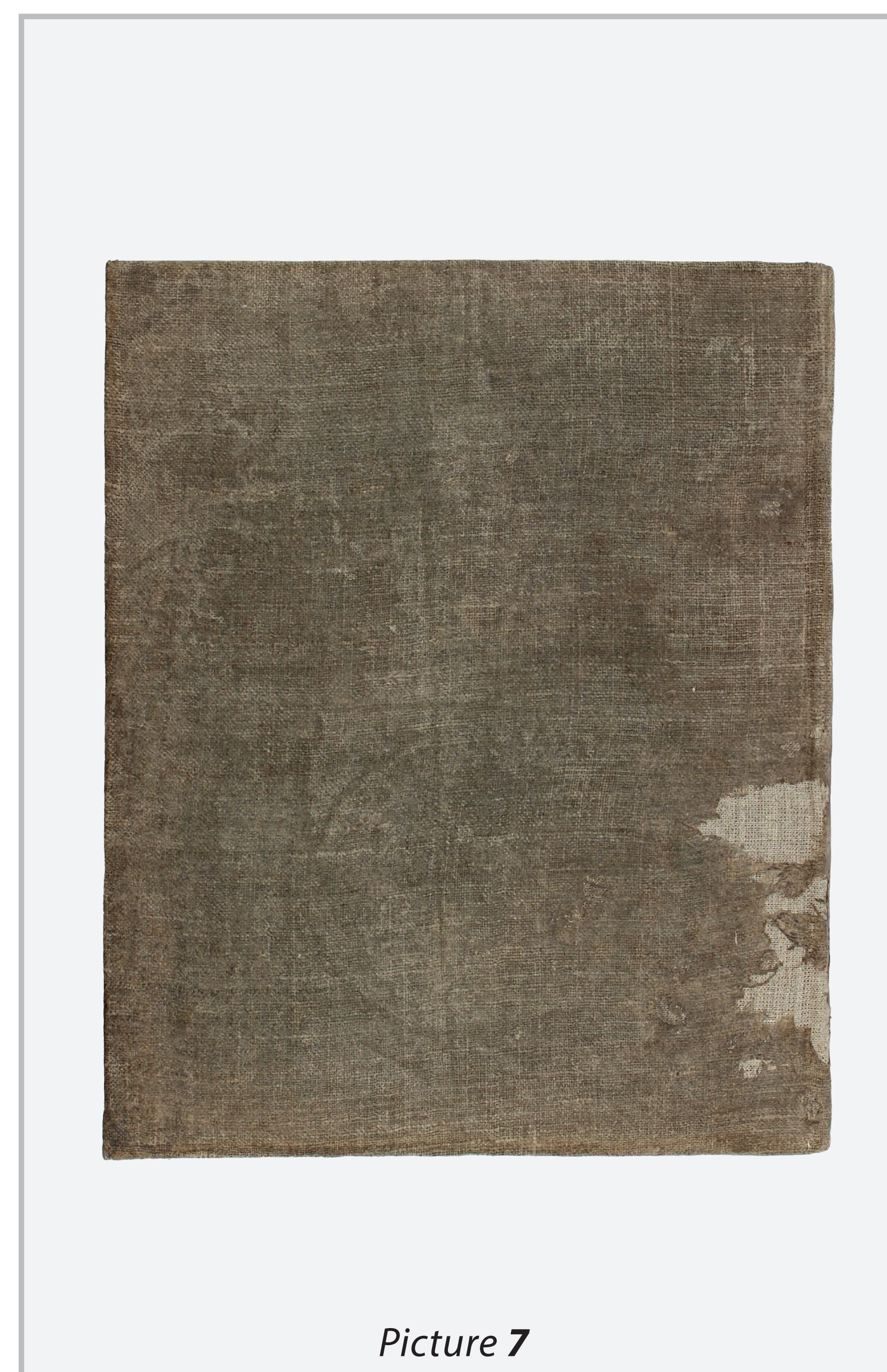


Picture 6

AIJA RAMANAUSKA-GAIŠUNA:

Bound Volume: *König Wain* by Eduard Stiegmann (see Picture 5, 6).

The sheet music is written on medium-weight handmade paper. The gatherings are sewn with linen thread. The binding is covered with linen cloth boards. The binding block contains various annotations and an ink stamp from the National Library of Latvia. A paper label with the title is affixed to the cover. The paper is slightly yellowed, soiled, with dust deposits and various types of stains. The cover shows surface dirt and mould, which has caused discoloration. The edges and corners of the cover are deformed. There are material losses along the spine and on the back cover. The volume has been disinfected. Dry cleaning was carried out. Paper losses and tears in the block were mended. The cover was restored (see Picture 7). A custom-made storage box was prepared.



Picture 7