

**Teachers' Folk-dance and music group "Levindra"
from Utena town, Lithuania, will perform in the U.S.**

November 4, 12 a.m. in Boston, St.Peter Lithuanian Church.

November 8, 7 p.m. in Baltimore, Lithuanian House.

November 10, 12 a.m. in New York, Maironis Lithuanian School in Maspeth (Queens).

Folk music and dance group "Levindra" was founded in 1984. Initially it consisted of 16 people, mostly elderly. Later on the group was joined by young teachers, high school students and their parents, interested in the cultural heritage of their ancestors. At the moment, the group consists of 28 members. Twenty of them are high school teachers, and the rest are students and their parents.

The members of the group have already made a good piece of work – they visited elderly people of the region and gathered old Lithuanian folk songs, learned about traditional dances and traditions. At the moment there are recorded more than 350 old songs, 60 kinds of traditional merry-go-rounds, many traditional tales, legends, customs. "Levindra" also has a video archive of folk heritage and has published several books with local tales, legends and stories. "Levindra" is also known in the region because of its social activities, integrating unemployed, poor persons and children from problematic families into cultural life, widely discussing problems of education, gender rights, conflicts in family.

To spread the local traditional heritage, the group has organized several seminars, teaching people traditional crafts – weaving, embroidery, making garlands etc. "Levindra" also communicates Lithuanian traditional culture for people abroad, making concerts and meetings in other countries. In 20 years of its existence, "Levindra" has given more than 280 concerts. It took part in many Lithuanian song and dance festivals, various contests and competitions, international events.

The group has performed in Canada, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Belarus.

In 2000 it has taken part in XI Dance Festival of World Lithuanians in Toronto, Canada.

In 2001 "Levindra" has visited Italy with its concert program.

In 2003 the group visited Norway and presented Lithuanian traditional cultural heritage for Norwegian people. As well learned the traditions and culture of Northern countries

In 2006 folk-group performed their concert in nearby Zurich during meeting with Swiss Lithuanian Community members.

The concert program of "Levindra" in the U.S. "Let's Open Dowry-box" includes traditional and ritual Lithuanian music and dances from Utena and Upper land region, and lasts approximately one hour.