

The Council of the President of the Republic's Cultural Foundation decided to award the Young Cultural Figure Award this year to Luana Georg, a ballet soloist with the Estonian National Opera, for stable and high-quality creative activity that has merited international recognition.

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will present the prize to Luana Georg on May 31st. The prize is being awarded for the sixth time. In previous years, the prize has been presented to composer Tõnu Kõrvits, folk musician Krista Sildoja, literary critic Jan Kaus, conductor Anu Tali, director Jaanus Rohumaa, and composer Helena Tulve. The 75,000-kroon Young Cultural Figure Award is financed by Toomas Luman, member of the Cultural Foundation Supervisory Board.

Luana Georg's lyrical dance style, which recalls Helmi Puur, has been enjoyed by Estonian ballet audiences for years. She graduated from the Tallinn Ballet School in 1993. In the same year, she represented Estonia at the Eurovision Young Dancers' Competition and started work at the Estonia Theater. Luana Georg has danced the lead in the newest major works by all of Estonia's outstanding choreographers, as well as under the direction of many foreign directors.

Luana Georg clearly proved that she belongs among world-class dancers by performing the title role in the Bournonville's classical ballet "Sylphide" that premiered in 2007, and which was produced at the National Opera by Frank Andersen, the Artistic Director of the Danish Royal Ballet.

Luana Georg won the Klaudia Maldutis Young Ballerina Award in 2001, the Philip Morris Dance Prize for two years in a row, and the Annual Estonian Theater Prize for the ballet performance category in 2004.

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