

Short description:

“Nielslens Lielsliens” is a Latvian contemporary folk music band active since 2009, with four albums. It’s known for audience-engaging acoustic performances in unique venues. The band consists of Mareks Kaminskis (drums, vocals, kilimanjaro), Klāvs Kalnačs (vocals, guembri, guitars), and since 2021, Vija Moore (balafon, vocals, violin). The latest album “Negaidīti varoņi” (Unexpected Heroes) (2024), is a mix of soulful Latvian tunes and North and West African heritage-inspired rhythms, melodies and attitude.

The trio’s choice of concert venues for concert series includes public saunas and tiny rural libraries. Critical acclaim for “Negaidīti varoņi” (Unexpected Heroes) resulted nationally in nominations to all three popular music awards in Latvia, bringing the band the “Golden microphone” award “for the best indie or experimental album”. Internationally, “Nielslens Lielsliens” has been included in “the IMPALA 100 Artists to Watch 2025” list, compiled by the IMPALA – Independent Music Companies Association and YouTube.

Band description:

“Nielslens Lielsliens” is a Latvian contemporary folk music group. It has been active since 2009, performing in interesting venues, for example, public saunas and releasing recordings in audio cassettes. Original music has been published on the albums “Negaidīti varoņi” (Unexpected Heroes) (2024), “Kad kniebējs kniebj” (When Frost Bites) (2019), “Aure” (2014) and “Nielslens Lielsliens” (2012). The band’s musicians are Mareks Kaminskis (drums, percussion, kilimandjaro, voice) and Klāvs Kalnačs or “Siensliens” (voice, guitar, guembri, percussion).

Vija Moore is a Latvian balafon player and composer, with whom the band has been collaborating since 2021 and in 2024 released their album together “Unexpected Heroes”.

The album is dedicated to real stories of heroes spotted in Latvian and foreign media and in the hairdressing salon. They tell about a Latvian marathon runner in Antarctica, a man who wrongly tried to destroy a colony of endangered birds, bears coming to the Vijciems village and other unexpected and inspiring events. Their concerts are a lively experience with danceable acoustic music with a dancer showing moves for audiences to dance with and to illustrate the stories being told. This year the album received the prestigious “Golden Microphone” award for “Best Indie Album”.

Critical Acclaim for Negaidīti varoņi:

- Golden Microphone (Zelta Mikrofons) – Winner: Best Indie Album. (The primary national music recording awards in Latvia).
- The Gamma Award – Nominee: Best Indie Act. (Latvia's industry-led awards celebrating creative excellence).
- The Austra Award – Nominee: Album of the Year. (The Latvian equivalent of the Mercury Prize, focused on artistic merit).
- IMPALA (European Independent Music Publishers Association) – Selected for the "100 Artists to Watch in 2025" list.
- Ir Magazine – Ranked among the top three albums of the year by Latvia's leading weekly news and culture publication.

Discography:

- "Nielslens Lielsliens" EP - 2012, SKYR Rec., audio cassette, download, streaming
- "AURE", album - 2014 - SKYR Rec., audio cassette, download, streaming
- "Kad kniebejs kniebj" (When Frost Bites) - 2019 - self-released, audio cassette, download, streaming
- "Negaiditi varoņi" (Unexpected Heroes) - 2019 - self-released, audio cassette, download, streaming

Links

Video links:

["Nielslens Lielsliens" & Vija Moore - Ēzelis, Gertrūdes ielas theatre, Rīga, 23/03/2024](#)

["Nielslens Lielsliens" & Vija Moore - Kokosi | Radio Pieci archive | "Austras balvas" nominants "Nielslens Lielsliens" & Vija Moore - Vijciema lāči \(music video\)](#)

["Nielslens Lielsliens" - Ūdens aerobika 36 \(music video\)](#)

["Nielslens Lielsliens" & Vija Moore - Ēzelis \(music video\)](#)

Music Streaming:

nielslenslielsliens.bandcamp.com

spotify.com

Social Media:

instagram.com

facebook.com

nielslenslielsliens.lv

Radio interviews:

[Nielslens Lielsliens in conversation on Latvian National Radio Channel 5's show "Izstāsti albumu" \(Tell About the Album\)](#)

[Nielslens Lielsliens in conversation on Radio Naba's show "Bitīt matos" \(Bee in the Hair\)](#)

[Nielslens Lielsliens in conversation on Latvian Radio 1's show "Starpbrīdis ar Tomu Grēviņu" \(Intermission with Toms Grēviņš\)](#)

[Nielslens Lielsliens guest appearance on Radio SWH](#)

[Nielslens Lielsliens in conversation on Latvian Nation Radio show "Monopols" Nielslens](#)

[Lielsliens in conversation on Latvian Radio 2's show "Neformāts" \(Non-Format\)](#)

Published articles and reviews:

[Uldis Rudaks' review of the album "Negaidīti varoņi" \(Unexpected Heroes\) in "delfi.lv"](#)

[Interview article on "LSM.lv" with Aiga Leitholde about the album "Negaidīti varoņi" \(Unexpected Heroes\)](#)