

## Contextualized Speaking

**Read the text, listen to the examples of drone singing and discuss the questions given below.**

A typical exposure of the Suiti culture is its specific singing tradition called drone singing. Drone singing is one of the most ancient traditional multiple voice singing types. It is widely recognized by the long sound of „ē” [ə:] (or „ō” [ɔ:]). Its roots stem from pre-Christian period culture and today drone singing has still been preserved in the Baltic countries, the Balkans, the Carpathians, Georgia, and the Pyrenees peninsula. Drone singing has always been popular and has continued on through ages in several parts of Latvia – in the Suiti territory (Alsunga, Gudenieki, Jūrkalne), in Courland in Bārta and Nīca and in some parts in Latgale.

Typical Suiti songs are the ones in which women tease each other or men. They are performed in various family celebrations, at work and other festivities. The melody remains the same, but the lyrics is changed according to the situation. It is exactly the singing Suiti women, who have become a symbol of the Suiti culture.

In order to promote drone singing traditions, drone singing festivals are held in Jūrkalne.

The following links provide examples of drone singing performed by the Suiti women:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi0koswugLc&feature=youtu.be>
- [http://www.jurkalne.lv/?page\\_id=419](http://www.jurkalne.lv/?page_id=419)

### Source:

- Suitu kultūrtelpa. (2011). Enciklopēdija Letonika.lv, Latvijas kultūras kanons. <https://www.letonika.lv/groups/default.aspx?title=LKK%20resurss/23> [04.01.2019]
- Suitu kultūrtelpa. (2018). Latvian Culture Canon webpage. Available on: <https://kulturaskanons.lv/archive/suitu-kulturtelpa/> [27.12.2018]
- Burdona festivāls. (2014). [http://www.jurkalne.lv/?page\\_id=334](http://www.jurkalne.lv/?page_id=334) [04.01.2019]

## Questions for Discussion

1. Which types of singing do you know?
2. Have you ever sung in a choir or any other group? If yes, what were your emotions like?  
How did you like it?
3. Have you ever performed on the stage? If yes, share your experiences.

4. What is drone singing?
5. Have you ever heard live drone singing?
6. Do you know any other specific types of singing? What is characteristic to them?