



On August 23rd 1978 a number of musicians together with a folklore dance band conducted by Mirek Drobny took part in a folk art parade in Velká nad Veličkou. As for musicians, there were: Dalibor Bambuch, Vladimír Grebík, Antonín Brušík, Josef Popelka, Miroslav Vilímek, sr. and Jiří Čaňo. That was the beginning of the new cimbalom music band.



Since that time Dalibor Bambuch, together with Vladimír Grebík, had not dismissed this idea. In the autumn they organized a first rehearsal and from then on the rehearsals would take place once a week on average.

Dalibor Bambuch became the head of the group and its musical life and soul. By the end of the year, Ivan Kubáň and Milan Wróbel joined the band, with Barbora Jankových as a singer. Jaroslav Václavík, Miroslav Vilímek, jr. and the singer Karel Bušo came in the following year.

The repertoire of the music band is strongly linked with the folklore heritage of the village of Strání and neighbouring regions of Moravské Kopanice, Dolňácko, Hornácko, as well as Slovak regions of Kopanice and Myjava.

The village lies on the Moravian-Slovak border; however, "Strýci" are devoted not only to Moravian and Slovak folklore but play also typical Czech folk music, gipsy songs and pop music.



Dulcimer music plays major role in building-up and maintaining the folklore heritage of the region, especially on such occasions like village feasts, the Easter, St Nicholas Day or Boxing Day feasts.

You can always hear and see us where one may expect great fun, and especially where people are singing and good wine is served.



The "Strýci" music band is a protagonist one of the most significant events in Strání the Shrovetide Festival (Carnival) annually attended by a large number of bands and visitors from the Czech Republic and abroad. Strání belongs to one of three villages of the Czech Republic where men's Shrovetide dance named "Podšable" has survived.



In the autumn 1981 the still nameless cimbalom music band was joined by Josef Knotek. The name "Strýci" ("The Uncles") was later given to the band for several reasons. It might have well originated from the vocative "strýcu" ("uncle"), because elderly people in the country have traditionally been addressed by "strýcu" or "teti" ("uncle" or "auntie").

"Strýci" used to play on various occasions. They cooperated with local folklore and theatre ensembles, with which they successfully took part in theatre festivals and were awarded many times.



According to extant legends and a record dated 1748, this dance was danced by outlaws living in Javořina and it is being danced to this day. There are five men dancing in a circle around, being led by a goodman with a wooden spit, to which presented bottles of Slivovitz (plum brandy), home-made sausages and bacon are attached.

Generally, the Shrovetide lasted from the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) to Ash Wednesday, when the forty-day Lent started (a period of feast and penance).

Experiences of guest musicians, like Josef Snopek, František Říha, Stanislav Škubal, Rostislav Beneš and many others, enriched the band. In the mid 1980 the band was reinforced by Josef Brušík, a few years later by his brother Radek Brušík, and eventually by Pavel Vintr. The whole cimbalom music band has undergone rejuvenation. The new members have replaced the old ones in that process.



The case of a bass player was a typical one: Mirek Vilímek was first replaced by Ondřej Popelka and eventually by David Smetana. On the post of a first violinist, Antonín Brušík a superb singer alternated with his brother Josef Brušík and later young and promising Václav Málek joined them.



Since the very beginning, the music band has cooperated with the local folklore dance ensemble Javorina; together they took part in several regional dance and songs festivals abroad, e.g. in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The ensemble Javorina developed naturally from a bunch of boys who used to go on Shrovetide errands every year and later were often invited to folklore festivals. Girls joined the boys some time later and a group of young people who liked to dance and sing emerged. At that time, only local dances were known in Strání. Only later the dancers got an opportunity to get acquainted with folklore of other regions too, e.g. dances from Hluk and Brezová.

Cimbalom Music Band Strýci



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The village's folklore descends from generation to generation. There are a number of clubs and associations working for the benefit of culture and the community. Besides the folklore groups there are brass-bands and other music bands playing music of various styles.

We must not omit the cooperation with children's ensembles Straňánek, Javorinka and Huslíčky, full of gifted musicians, singers and dancers.

Strání abounds with talented young people, who could be seen in various TV programmes like "Folklorika" or "European roots" or took part in the "Sing, Little Nightingale" contest. Supporting children choirs where the little artists can sing, play and dance is therefore of a crucial importance.

