

FRIŠ, cimbalom band (CZE)

The Friš Cimbalom Band was founded during the International Folklore Festival in Strážnice in 1997. In the 20 years of their existence in the field of folklore music the band's art could not only be heard at numerous concerts and events, but also live as well as in a recording in Czech Radio Ostrava and Brno, in Czech Television and TV Noe. The band also cooperates with dance troupes, it accompanied the folklore band Odra from Ostrava to a festival in Portugal, the Ostrava-based Morava band to Sardinia, or the Olza band from Český Těšín to Turkey. The listeners in Poland (mainly in Zakopane), in Slovakia, Austria and Germany, had the opportunity to enjoy their art during a tour of successful concerts. In the Czech Republic Friš performs every year at the International Folklore Festival in Strážnice, at the Goral Ball in Mosty u Jablunkova, often also at the International Folklore Festival in Frýdek-Místek. Last year Friš performed at the Štěrkovna Music open air festival in Hlučín, and the band regularly presents themselves at the Colours of Ostrava multi-genre music festival. The band combines their concert efforts over the years together with recording CDs. In 2002 the band published the "exFiFOUni" album, in June 2007 it produced a second album titled "Ej, ani som nemysleu". During the autumn of 2013 a third album emerged, "Friš turns Fifteen", which was published to commemorate the band's fifteenth anniversary. In spring 2014 the band continued with a large anniversary concert connected with the record's christening – and the recording of the concert was later issued on the official DVD titled "Friš turns Fifteen". The band's latest record, titled "The Friš Cimbalom Band and Guests", from 2015, on which the band shares the stage with significant personages of Czech, Moravian and foreign folklore scene (e.g. Jan Karpiel, Liselotte Rokyta, Martin Hrbáč, Spevácká skupina Rosa and others). At the moment Friš cooperates with the top-quality vocal trio "Spevácká skupina Rosa" from Prešov, which performs east Slovakian and Ruthenian folklore. Joint collaborations of these two bands can be found on the CDs and DVDs of both groups. The band members' roots are in the Těšín Silesia, some of the in south Moravia, others have Slovak ancestors. Almost each and every one of them has been active in the area of folklore music before joining the band. Some worked with classical or rock music, all of which combines in to great diversity of the band. At the beginning the band concentrated on Slovak, Moravian and Silesian songs, later incorporating also Roma songs, concert-style Romanian or Moldova dances, as well as the Hungarian czardas. The band was formed by many musicians, members of philharmonic orchestras, theatres, professional artists as well as a master violin maker. The arrangements were at first done by Marek Pabjan. At this point they are made mainly by the cimbalom player, Martin Gelnar, by the singer and viola player, Martin Kajzar, and the double bass player, Tomáš Pospíšil. Petr Kuřil is responsible for the management of the band.

FRIŠ line up:

Petr Kuřil – primo, singing

Barbora Kachlová – tertio

Marta Faiková – tertio

Martin Kajzar – singing, viola

Luboš Štandl – viola

Tomáš Pospíšil – double bass

Martin Gelnar – cimbalom