

MARIAN FRIEDL AND HIS “PÍSEŇ ZEMĚ” (The Song of Earth)



PÍSEŇ ZEMĚ (The Song of Earth) is a joint musical project of the ethnomusicologist and multi-instrumentalist MARIAN FRIEDL and the sought-after traditional folklore ensembles RUKYNADUDY and GRUNIK. Marian Friedl, the mastermind behind the album and its main initiator, has designed it as a collection of tales and memories of a region in the Moravian-Silesian Beskids. Together, they narrate the story of a landscape that was once covered with dense virgin forest and then gradually settled and cultivated by Moravian peasants and Carpathian shepherds. These settlers gave rise to a specific culture closely connected with their rough lifestyle, and created a landscape defined by extensive mountain pastures and long vistas. After they left the region again, the culture with its ways

of life disappeared and the land was reforested. This history is now traceable only in the forest meadows and the local memory, but it is also revived in the performance of the old songs and on musical instruments as they are played by contemporary musicians in this recording. To keep alive the memory of the disappeared communities and their culture is the mission of this album. The album was recorded in the course of three days deep in the mountains, in places where its music originated and where all the participating musicians and specialists gathered not only to play and sing the songs but to relive their authentic charm and give us a taste of their archaic forms. The tales of lives that were once tied with this region get retold in the album's music until we feel that it is the earth itself who sings the song.

The album was recorded on location, in collaboration with the sound engineer Milan Cimfe and the mobile studio Sono Expedition. The mix is by Milan Cimfe and Adam Karlík of Sono Records and the mastering is by Adam Karlík and Pavel Karlík of the same studio. The cover design is by Jakub Spurný (Studio Najbrt), the author of the photograph is Dušan Tománek. The album is distributed by SUPRAPHON both on CD and digitally and is also available from the e-shop on the website of ANIMAL MUSIC, both on CD and digitally.

MARIAN FRIEDL is a versatile musician, producer, pedagogue and a leading expert on the traditional music and musical instruments of the Moravian-Silesian Beskids. His interest in the archaic forms of the traditional Carpathian music and their combination with contemporary styles has been the inspiration for many other recordings, including “Divé husy” (Wild Geese) by Jitka Šuranská Trio (Indies Scope 2016), “Mateřština” (Mother Tongue) by Jiří Slavík (Animal Music 2017), “Beránci a vlci” (Lambs and Wolves; Indies Scope 2017) and Friedl's solo project “Beskydská Odysea” (Beskidean Odyssey; Indies Scope 2019).



RUKYNADUDY from Frenštát pod Radhoštěm consists of five core members and focuses on performing music on traditional musical instruments from the Beskids. The line ups are based on actual ensembles documented in the past and in other Carpathian regions. The varied style of the ensemble's play ranges from authentic reconstruction and world music. In 2014 the band launched an album entitled “Písňe Hukvadlských Beskyd” (The Songs of Hukvaldy Beskids) and it also participated in the world-music project

ANIMALMUSIC

“Beránci a vlci”.

The folklore ensemble GRUNIK from Ostravice was founded in 1981 by the collector and choreographer Věra Šejvlová who would celebrate her 100th birthday this year. Thanks to her extensive field research of songs and dances from the Ostravice valley and the adjoining parts of the Beskids, part of that region’s traditional culture is alive to this day. GRUNIK’s singing has been captured in the Želary movie and on the album “Zvon” by Iva Bittová, as well as on the solo album of the ensemble that was published under the title of “Ozvěny” (Echoes; Animal Music) in 2014. Just like the album “Píseň země”, “Ozvěny” was recorded in the heart of the Beskid Mountains.

The album PÍSEŇ ZEMĚ will be launched as part of a concert performance in Hotel Freud in Ostravice on the occasion of the 100th birthday of the founder of Grunik Věra Šejvlová on 30 November 2019.

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