



HΔRΔFICAΔ

BIOGRAPHY FOR ORGANISERS

SHORT VERSION

Harafrica is a cimbalom band from Uherské Hradiště. It grew up on the songs of the Dolňácko around Uherské Hradiště and went on to take in Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, its own writing and film music. Led by first violinist Martin Melichárek and cimbalom player Petr Gablas, it has recorded four albums, performed its Harafrica Symphonic project with five orchestras and toured the United States three times. It plays concerts, festivals and celebrations, balls, weddings and village feasts, in concert halls from the Rudolfinum to the Besední dům in Brno as much as in rock clubs. Its name means one of the underskirts of a woman's folk costume in the Dolňácko, and in the Wallachian hills the state a person is in after a very good party.

LONGER VERSION

Harafrica began in 1999 as a children's cimbalom band at the school of arts in Uherské Hradiště, under Pavel Štulír – first their teacher, later their friend. Since 2005 it has gone its own way under the name Harafrica, which in the Dolňácko means one of the lowest underskirts of a woman's folk costume and in the Wallachian hills the state a person is in after a very good party – and neither meaning was unfamiliar to the musicians. It is led by first violinist Martin Melichárek and by artistic director Petr Gablas, cimbalom player and author of most of the arrangements. Its foundation is the songs of the Dolňácko, joined over the years by Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, original writing and film music.

The band has recorded four albums; the most recent is an illustrated Christmas songbook with a CD, featuring fifteen guest singers and narrators. With Petr Gablas's Harafrica Symphonic it has played with five orchestras, from the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava to the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic. The #HarafricaTour concert series took it from Metro and Fléda in Brno through La Fabrika and Malostranská beseda in Prague to the Klub Mír back home. It has performed for Czech communities in the United States three times, most recently in Texas, where it played in a town called Moravia. At home you will find it at the Slovácko Wine Festival, at the Summer Film School, at the Rudolfinum and the Besední dům in Brno, and every Advent with its Na prahu Vánoc programme.