

Dzhamal Bayrov is famous representative of the Bayrovs clan. He is a *zurnaci*-maestro called “a prominent representative of the Aegean School”. Dzhamal has played with his son (a *glashnik*) for the Pirin Folk Ensemble of Blagoevgrad. Today the *zurnaci* tradition is continued by his grandsons who live in Petrich.

In the recent years the *tapan* in the *zurnaci* formations from Petrich and Kavrakirovo has been played by Istref Musatfov, Esref Kajmakanov, Zhivko Ivanov, Ismail Mehmedov, Nikolaj – Tsanka, Ognyan Fetov. Bay Nuri, the first cousin of Beliyo Demir, used to be one of the most famous *tapancies* in Kavrakirovo. The best known *tapancies* in Petrich are the descendants of the Bayrovs clan who are a third generation players.

There are *zurnacies* in the village of Javornitsa as well. During our field research we have listened to and interviewed the brothers Ismail and Nebby Kurtovi – a maestro and a *glashnik*, as well as the *tapanci* Ajdar Yusienov Mutev. They say that in this village the *zurnacilik* is succeeded only “in one house and clan”, the same is valid for the *tapancilik* which is practiced by another family.

There are also data of *zurnacies*’ villages in the Struma river valley: Mikrevo and Dzhigurovo (region Sandanski); Kolarovo and Belasitsa (region Petrich) the most distant to the north is Krupnik (region Simitly).

The region of Gotse Delchev

Today’s reminiscences of the old *zurnacies* in the other *zurnaci* centre, Gotse Delchev, reach back to the generation of players born about the 1920s. The village of Dabnitsa and the town of Hadzhidimovo are pointed as the major nuclei of the *zurnacies* tradition in this region. The well-known *zurnaices* clans are Zurnadzhievi, coming from Dabnitsa and Ramadanovi from Hadzhidimovo. According to the present descendants of the Zurnadzhievs the *zurnacilik* is a family craft and alike other craftsmen’s families in Gotse Delchev, Tjumbelekchievi, the surname comes from the music instrument tjumbelek they play. There is a story of an ancestor who taught his brother to play the *zurna*. That brother, Ahmed Zurnadzhiev, became the best *zurnaci* of all times in the region of Gotse Delchev. Ahmed’s son Sali Zurnadzhiev is still playing the instrument. The musicians Madzhirovi have inherited the craft both from the side of their mother who belonged to the Zurnadzhievs and from their father’s from whose clan was the popular Aliko *zurnaci*. The descendants of the Ramadanovs are the sons of the most acclaimed *zurnaci* – maestro Ramadan Aliev. Today Mustafa Mahmud, a *daulci* (*tapanci*), the son of his daughter, keeps the musicians’ traditions.

The contemporary *zurnacies* from Gotse Delchev say that “the oldest musicians” they have played with are Alish and Ahmed. The word goes about Alish Ramadanov Aliev and Ahmed Zurnadzhiev whose recordings of local traditional *zurnaci* repertoire were made in 1950 by Rayna Katsarova. Today the recordings are kept in the Archive of the Institute of Art Studies. Those musicians were playing then with the *tapanci* Nastan Kovachov. The two *zurnacies* were cast to play in the films *Kapitan Petko Voyvoda* and *Measure for Measure*. Ahmed Zurnadzhiev played for a while for the Folk Ensemble of Nevrokop. He was on tours to Italy and Turkey. According to his son Sali, “For 40 years he had been the most famous musician in the region of Blagoevgrad, then came Shein Kurtov from Petrich” Ahmed died in 2001.

In the 1960s Ivan Kachulev made a study of the *zurnaci* tradition in this region. According to this study there were *zurnacies* from the Gotse Delchev’s neighbourhood