

Though been overwhelmed by the challenges of everyday life, some *zurnacies* have preserved the sense of the everlasting values of their music. These values in the musicians' consciousness are embodied in the *bash-maestri*. Being mortal, these legendary players could remain alive only in the memory. The mechanisms to overcome the oblivion are simple: the old musicians must be recorded, memorized, their repertoire, style and skilfulness must be inherited. Thus the tradition will be preserved and the real maestri will become immortal. They will not be stoneless graves, if their music is preserved. Therefore the players like Demko Kurtov and Selim Demirov from Kavrakirovo, Akif and Mustafa Sarachevi as well as Abdul Madzhirov from Gotse Delchev, Iliya Znagov and Mancho Kamburov from Razlog, Feim Eminov from Dabnitsa – those most intelligent and pious as far as the memory of the tradition is concerned – turned to be the most responsive informants and bona fide participants in the conversations. All of them are conscious of the fact that their words and music which they have inherited and carried with them should be recorded and transferred to the future generations. If it is not possible to be done via the oral tradition and transferring the skill to the successor musicians, let it be via the modern equipment and mediators like the authors of the present study.

¹ Before 1990 it was almost impossible to be self-employed or to work in the private sector.

² In the state owned workshops. Most of them used to be owned by the masters before 1944.

³ Abbreviation of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

⁴ A folk wind instrument consisting of two pipes (N. tr.).

⁵ The years 1984-1990 when all the Muslims in Bulgaria were forced to adopt Christian names since their ancestors were considered to have been converted to Islam unwillingly during the Ottoman rule (See chapter Symbols, Ideas, Ideologemes).

⁶ The way leaders and the participants of the liberation movement of Macedonia (1878-1912) were called. The liberation organization was called *IMRO* – Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization.

⁷ Strong desire, passion (Turk.).

⁸ The state owned company for gramophone records.

⁹ A world famous folk singers trio of the three sisters Biserovi.