

But in regulated performances the *zurnaci-tapançi* formations have been active participants in informal events that occurred spontaneously at folklore *sabors* and festivals. After the official stage programs the *zurnacies* are commissioned to play on the clearings and on the way, in the camps by the fire and in the taverns. At the *sabors* in Koprivshitsa we have seen many foreigners, who like Bulgarian music and dance folklore, to pay the *zurnaci* bands in order to play the dances. Often in such cases during the night foreigners and Bulgarians have been crowding the *horos*, danced with the accompaniment of *zurnas* for hours.

One can witness a real competition between the *zurnaci* bands during the Pirin Pee festival. Besides the formal presentations of the participants, the *zurnacies* are commissioned by the men merrymaking in the improvised tent-inns in order to play for them table music. In 2001 while making the recordings in the Predela we recorded a similar situation in a pavilion located not far from the stages. Drunken men forbade us to record the *zurnacies* since they had paid them to play: "Don't explain. It's me the boss. Who are you to explain? Who's paying?" The two *zurnacies* Kurtata and Vancho with a *tapançi* from Petrich stopped speaking to us and played non-stop for half an hour. In the music potpourri they played one could recognize the popular for this region song images, intonations and motifs like *More, sokol pie*, *Bolen mi lezhi Mile Popjordanov*, etc. Later a band from Razlog also came to the place. Their music consisted of instrumental versions of local songs and *zurnacies'* variants of the song *Partizan za boy se stjaga* which used to be popular during the socialist period. Provoked by the virtuous and artistic *tapançi* Emil and the *zurnacies* who were playing in accelerating tempos, the drinking men got up and began to dance. Their feast lasted for hours. Meanwhile other *zurnacies* were playing in other pavilions and tents. At that time the official program of the folklore *sabor* was going on.

The *zurnaci-tapançi* formations participate with masked groups from Southwest Bulgaria in the festivals of carnivals and masked plays in Pernik. This festival has been held as a regional event since the 1970s. In the 1990s it became an international one. The informants from Razlog who have been to the festival in Pernik say that their band "is the most impressive with the great number of participant 120 or 130 people at least". The presentation of the band from Razlog is lead by a man dressed in a national costume carrying a slogan with the name of the town and dolls *chaush-es*. Then come the participants in the masquerade plays: *chaush-es* in goat skins, lasses and lads in folk costumes, who circle *horos* around the *zurnacies*. The *zurnacies* who have been accompanying constantly the local masked detachment belong to the Zangovs family.

Razlog *zurnacies* accompany the local amateur band presenting masked plays at international festivals abroad. The Zangovs have been to carnivals in France, Denmark, Slovenia.

The *zurnas* have become a part of the Roma folklorism as well. In 2001 a festive procession of the participants in the town streets was organized for the first time at the 9th Festival of Roma Music and Dances – Romafest held in Stara Zagora. The long column of dancers, musicians and singers from Bulgaria, India, Serbia and Macedonia was lead by a *zurnaci* formation from Razlog. This band was accompanying the dance ensemble Bahtalo Roma.