

SPIRITUÁL KVINTET

SPIRITUÁL KVINTET:

Jiří Tichota – leader, vocal, guitar

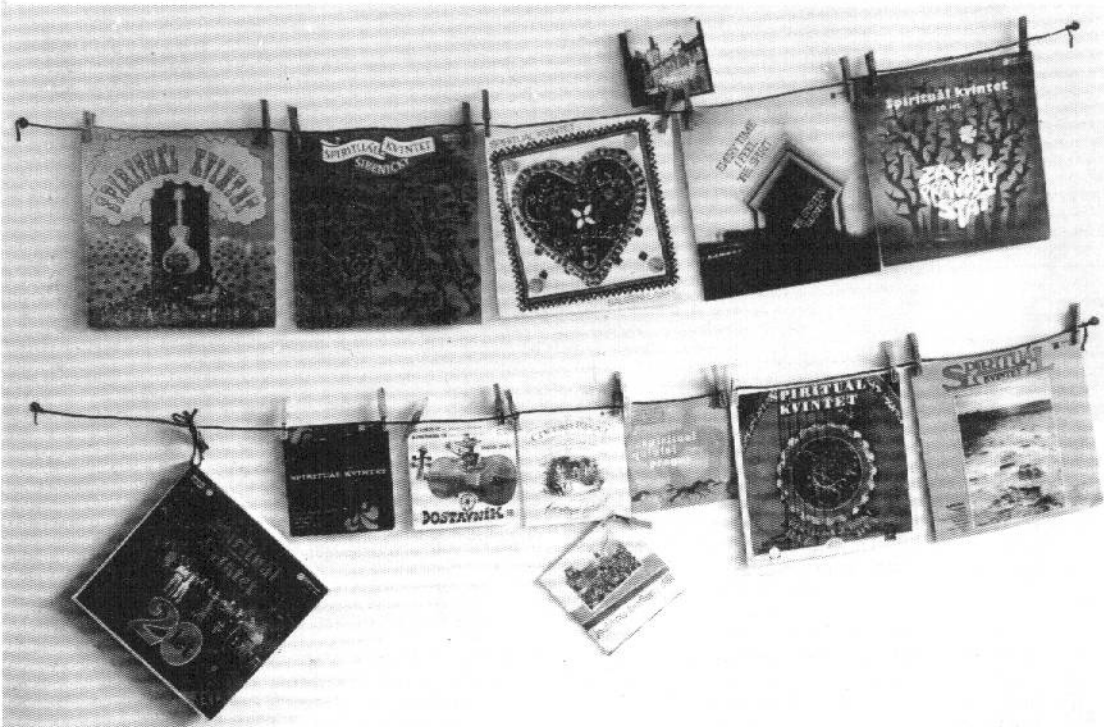
Irena Budveiserová – vocal

Zdenka Tichotová – vocal

František Nedvěd – vocal, 12-string guitar

Oldřich Ortinský – vocal

Dušan Vančura – vocal, bass



SPIRITUÁL KVINTET

Critics regard the Spiritual quintet as the first and so far best Czechoslovak folk ensemble. In the world of popular music there are probably few groups able to boast of the kind of perseverance and enduring popularity among audiences. The group which as far back as in 1964 performed together with Pete Seeger till this day fills even the largest concert halls where old and young make up its audience. A remarkably varied repertoire (Renaissance ditties from the Prague of Emperor Rudolf, Czech folk songs, 19th century burgher songs, Irish and Scottish ballads, negro spirituals, protest songs etc.) have so far been recorded on ten LPs and one CD (sung in English).

Two record companies have issued a three-volume record of a jubilee concert to mark the group's 20th anniversary. The Spiritual quintet is equally well received at folk music and jazz festivals, in churches (regular concerts for the German YM-CA) as on the concert hall stage. At the time of the „velvet revolution“ in 1989 the Spiritual quintet was among artists at the time blacklisted by the government yet its songs resounded through the streets of Prague throughout the days of the revolution. In November 1990 two Presidents joined the Spiritual quintet in song on the concert stage: Václav Havel and George Bush...



What they said about the Spiritual quintet:

„Provided my friends manage to seize tickets for myself and my wife from that mob that always gathers around your performances I never miss a single one of your concerts. I go there as I would attend mass. This may sound silly, but I go there to gather strength so as to survive this destiny of ours and bear it as befits decent human beings...“

1984, Milan Uhde, today Czech Minister of Culture.

„Apart from that conspiratorial joy at ridicule of the powerful, the Spiritual quintet was something far more profound and lasting, something we shall need in future as well, perhaps even more than yesterday. It is and remains a beauty of melody and voice, the beauty of combining

the harmony of simplicity with ingenious ideas and accuracy that is hard to describe but easily and immediately taken in. A beauty that imbues one with strength and force of life perhaps even before the spoken word begins to do its bit.“

1990, Jiří Černý, music critic

„What we liked of the six musicians – in spite of the fact that they call themselves a Quintet – apart from their great interpretation commitment, above all their ability at vocal rondure which always gets its fair share even when the subject is merry. Wit, temperament and a fine timbre were in cheerful harmony. The charming feature was mainly the authentic flair for the spirituals as performed by the two lady singers and the four men. A versatile timbre and an un-

restrained identification with the sung word were the indispensable prerequisite...“

„Was bei den – trotz der bezeichnung Quintet – sechs Interpreten gefiel, war neben dem grossen gestalterischen Engagement vor allem die Fähigkeit zu klinglicher Rundung, die selbst bei heiteren Vorlagen nie zu kurz kam. Witz, Temperament und Klangkultur fanden zu glücklicher Harmonie. Bemerkenswert war vor allem, wie authentisch die zwei Sängerinnen und vier Sänger das besondere Flair des Spirituals trafen. Ein wandlungsfähiges Timbre und eine uneingeschränkte Identifikation mit dem Gesungenen waren da die unabdingbaren Voraussetzungen...“

1990, Hajo Berns, Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung