



History of the band

In the summer of 1994, during the festival „Lute and Sword“ at the castle Točnik in the Czech Republic, a group of musicians met and played together. These were, among others, Josef Vondráček, Petr Marek and Radek Seidl. After a few weeks the trio added fiddle player Martin Hrbek and created the group “Krless“. Since 1995 Krless began to perform regularly at castles, palaces, medieval feasts and banquets. In the following couple of years Krless acquired a very good reputation on the medieval scene in the Czech Republic and also abroad, especially in Germany.

In 1998 Krless' first album „**Hudci písní nejstarších**“ was published. At this time Krless regularly performed at major medieval events in the Czech Republic - “Five-petalled Rose Celebrations” in Český Krumlov, “The Royal Silvering Festival” in Kutná Hora, “The Historical Wine Festival” in Znojmo and many other events.

In 2000 Krless published their second album “**Hoy et Oe**“ and started to expand. Not only is the band regularly invited to events and festivals in Germany, but also to France, the Slovak Republic, Poland and Belarus.

At the beginning of 2002 Radek Seidl left the band and was replaced by Jan Klima, known as the frontman of the band Gothart, and for a transitional period of one year the band is joined by a fifth member Ondrej Kuchar playing the string instruments. With the appearance of Jan Klima Krless slightly altered their sound and added more and more contemporary influences of world music and rock to the medieval concept of their music.

In 2002 Krless was engaged, with the support of the Czech Cultural Centre, at the Medieval Culture Festival in Sighisoara, Romania and, also in that year, performed several concerts at the Festival of European Culture in Algeria by invitation of the Czech Embassy.

Since 2001 Krless has collaborated with the theatre society Kašpar and successfully performs the play “Májový Shakespeare“ (Shakespeare in May). Consequently they were also involved in several movies and fairy tales with historical themes. In 2003 Krless played as the supporting act for the Blackmore's Night concert in Prague's Lucerna.

By invitation of the Czech Embassy in Lebanon Krless played several shows, held in Beirut on the occasion of EU enlargement in 2004. Aside from these exceptional performances, Krless developed their activities, especially in Germany and France, during these years. You can meet them at many town historical celebrations, markets and medieval Christmas markets as well as at festivals of medieval and street arts. Among these festivals it is important to mention the festival in Souvigny, France and “The Travelling Festival“ Vallée du Dropt, France.

In 2005 Krless released their third album “**Ecce Krless**“ and at the same time started the concert project “Krless XXL“ – with the basic set, accompanied by a double-bass player and three back-up vocalists. The results were wild club concerts, chamber music concerts such as the advent concerts in churches and concerts on big amplified stages like at the Tabor Meetings, Celebration of the Rose, Karlštejn Wine Festival and elsewhere. Again by invitation of the Czech Embassy, Krless came to Egypt to play several concerts in Cairo and Alexandria in May 2007.

Krless' musical style, which mixes the medieval European tradition with influences from the Balkans, Jewish and Arabic music, was a great success at all concerts in the Near East and North Africa.

In the spring of 2007 Krless was invited to participate in a project with the French group Ensemble Obsidienne. This work resulted in several joint concerts and in the recording of the album “**Musiques Festives du Moyen Âge**”. This project was realized with the assistance of French cultural institutions and the association Guedelon.

In next years Krless performs hundreds concerts and performances in Czech Republic and in other European countries - above all in Germany, Austria and France, for instance on festivals in Souvigny, Le Puy en Velay (Fêtes Renaissance du Roi de L'Oiseau), Cordes sur Ciel (Fêtes médiévales du Grand Fauconnier), Biot, Eggenburg, Bretten (Peter und Paul Fest) and many others. In May 2010 Krless are invited by Czech Embassy to USA and plays several concerts in New York and Washington D.C., in 2014 they are again in Cairo and Alexandria. Since 2013 Krless takes part in the theatre performance Romeo and Juliet, again with the theatre society Kašpar.

Currently Krless continues working on music originating from European sources. In this the band focuses primarily on sources from Germany, Spain, France and the Czech Republic, but they even incorporate influences of pieces from Turkey and the Orient.

The band constantly performs in music clubs, at historical events and in concert halls.

During its existence Krless has played thousands of live performances, concerts as well as formal social events and historical celebrations, sold over 20.000 albums and become an inspiration and role model for historical music groups in the Czech Republic and abroad.

