

Transcript of the Audio Recording by Mário Gavranich Júnior (Jadran Group) 🗣️

__The Jadran Group—actually, originally the Friends of Yugoslavia Society—was formed in 1959 by descendants who had come from the Dalmatia region in 1924 and 1925 and established this association, located on Tobias Barreto Street in Mooca. It was a cultural, recreational, and social association for Croatian workers of that era.

__They decided to set it up there and recalled dances and songs, and so they managed to start forming, among the young people of that time—in the 1960s—a group dedicated to original Croatian dances and music, which the members sang, played, and began to perform, starting with very simple dance steps at first.

__Over the years, the group continued to improve; we received traditional costumes from the Yugoslavian embassies at the time, and later from Croatia itself. And the Jadran Group, under that name, was officially founded in 1992, after the breakup of Yugoslavia and the separation of its constituent countries—at a time when Croatia was already emerging as a new nation. Given that most of the immigrants were from the Dalmatia region, which is now part of Croatia, so the name “Friends of Dalmatia Society” was adopted in honor of these immigrants, and the group—which had been the Dance Group—became the Jadran Dance Group.

__And this photo, taken during a performance we gave here at the Immigration Museum, shows traditional Croatian costumes—the men’s outfits, in light colors and

shades, with boots, white shirts, and white pants, which were very typical of workers in agricultural regions. And the women's costumes—more elaborate and beautiful, featuring original Croatian embroidery.

—This red-and-white costume is from a central region of Croatia—the Posavina region, near the capital, Zagreb. And the boys' costumes over there are from the Slavonia region, a little further east. And here, in this beautiful performance we put on here at the Immigration Museum, the Jadran Group was performing a dance from the Baná region—the Banatsko Kolo.

—Well, the dancers here—the Jadran Group, whose name means “Friends of Dalmatia”—are always made up of friends; it's not just for descendants—it welcomes many friends. And here in this photo, in the foreground, you can see my

wife Sandra, my son Leandro; then a little further down there's Fátima, Giovanni—a friend of my son's—Fátima is also the granddaughter of descendants; there's Maria da Penha; and there's Fábio, who's also my cousin. So, as you can see, it's practically a family group right there.

__If I'm not mistaken, it must have been in 2016 or 2017, at some festival that was probably held here at the Immigration Museum. Either the Immigrant Festival or the Viva a Leste Europeu festival—we've always participated in them over the years. We're always invited, and it's a great honor; we love taking part in the celebrations here.

__It was an honor to be part of the Jadran Group and to showcase all of Croatia's cultural diversity. I think it's a country that's very little known here in Brazil—aside from cultural festivals and soccer games

when the Brazilian and Croatian national teams face off—it's a country that's very little known. And these opportunities that the Immigration Museum gives us to showcase a bit of the culture—through dance, through costumes—those beautiful costumes that are made right there in Croatia, with lots of embroidery—they're very colorful, too.

—It's truly a source of great honor and pride for all of us descendants.