

Ondra Kozák

Musician, composer, educator

Personal and contact info

Year of birth: 1984

Nationality: Czech

Address: Hradec-Nová Ves 108, 79084, Czech Republic

Website: www.ondrakozak.com

Email: mail@ondrakozak.com

Phone: +420 728 232 297

Summary

Ondra Kozák is one of the main figures of the Czech and European bluegrass music scene. He has been actively involved in music since 2000 and professionally since 2016. As a soloist and member of many bands, he has won several important awards, is a sought-after collaborator, studio engineer and teacher. Through his activities, he has made a significant contribution to building the musical community in the Czech Republic. Throughout his career to date, he has performed and taught at major events in many European countries and in the USA, and has collaborated with some of the most prominent figures in the American and European acoustic music scene.

Skills

- Performance skills – playing musical instruments (guitar, violin, mandolin, bass, dobro), singing, emceeing
- Composition
- Educating – teaching, making instructional materials
- Audio engineering, recording techniques

Experience

- Full-time professional musician, since 2016
- Member of several recording and internationally touring acts ([Křeni](#), [Petr Brandejs Band](#), [Blackjack](#), [Fragment](#), [Jazyk](#), [G-runs 'n Roses](#), [East-West](#), [High ReVoltage](#), [Ondra Kozák & Ralph Schut](#), [New Aliquot](#), [Radim Zenkl & Ondra Kozák](#), [Lluís Gómez Bluegrass Quartet](#)), since 2000
- Audio engineer and producer, [studio](#) owner, 25+ projects, since 2013
- Recording artist, 16+ projects, since 2000
- Founder and music teacher at [ATAmusic online workshop](#), since 2014
- Organizer and music teacher at 50+ music camps, since 2004
- Founder of the “[ATAmusic podcast](#)”, 40+ episodes, since 2018
- [Czech Bluegrass Music Association](#) board member, since 2023

Education (musical)

- Primary art school, violin (1990 – 1999)
- Folk conservatory, guitar (2010)

Education (non-musical)

- Ph.D. in Chemistry (2011)
- FCE – First Certificate in English (2006)

Awards and accomplishments

- 5x Guitarist of the Year – Czech Bluegrass Music Association
- 4x 1st Prize – The Best European Group, [La Roche Bluegrass Festival](#), France (Křeni 2009, Blackjack 2011, East-West 2013, G-runs ‘n Roses 2016)
- #1 European Bluegrass Band, EWOB, [European World Of Bluegrass](#), Voorthuizen, The Netherlands (Blackjack 2009)
- 2nd Prize – The Best European Group, [La Roche Bluegrass Festival](#), France (New Aliquot 2019)
- Appearance in major Czech media: Česká televize (Czech TV), TV NOVA, Český rozhlas (Czech Radio), Radio Proglas, Country Radio
- Collaboration with some of the leading figures of the world bluegrass music scene: Mike Marshall, Dan Crary, Mike Compton, Dale Ann Bradley, Tony Furtado, Cia Cherryholmes, Steve Gulley, Radim Zenkl
- Collaboration with some of the leading figures of the Czech contemporary folk music scene: Žamboši, Vít’a Troníček
- Participation in the recording of 30+ CDs and DVDs, 2 solo albums – Ataman 2014, Overtones 2019, full list and references at ondrakozak.com/en/discography/
- More than one million views of music and educational videos on YouTube ([@OndraKozak](#), [@ata-music](#))
- Endorsing Artist at [Elixir® Strings](#)
- [The IBMA Foundation](#) grant recipient ([Educational music programme for kindergartens](#)), 2020

In Hradec–Nová Ves, Czech Republic
12th January 2024

List of annual camps organized and led by Ondra Kozák

- Zlatohorská hudební horečka, Czech Republic (2015 – present)
- Jesenický Shuffle, Czech Republic (2016 – present)
- Bluegrass Vegas, Czech Republic (2016 – present)
- Bluegrass Wellness, Slovakia (2016 – present)
- Gillova vokální dílna, Czech Republic (2017 – present)

Photos and info at atamusic.eu/atamusic-dilny (in Czech)

List of other major events (camps, workshops, festivals) in which Ondra Kozák played a significant role by his active participation

- [Adiaha's Bluegrass Camp](#), Germany, guitar, violin and harmony singing teacher, 2021 – 2024
- [Banjo Jamboree](#), Czech Republic, workshops organizer and leader, performer, 2007 – present
- [Risør Bluegrass Festival](#), Norway, guitar teacher, performer, 2007 – 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015
- [Strenger i Gress Bluegrassfestival](#), Norway, guitar teacher, performer, 2022
- [Torsaker Bluegrassfestival](#), Sweden, guitar and violin teacher, performer, 2013, 2015, 2022
- [Barcelona Bluegrass Camp](#), Spain, mandolin teacher, performer, 2024
- [La Roche Bluegrass Festival / Bluegrass in La Roche](#), France, performer, 2008 – 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024
- [International Bluegrass and Acoustic Music Festival](#), Abaliget, Hungary, performer, 2016
- [European World of Bluegrass](#), Netherlands, performer, teacher at the workshop, 2005 – 2009, 2012 – 2014
- [Westport Folk and Bluegrass Festival](#), Ireland, performer, 2023
- [Summergrass San Diego Bluegrass Festival](#), USA, performer, teacher at the workshop, 2007
- [Oklahoma's International Bluegrass Festival](#), USA, performer, 2011

List of the major bands Ondra Kozák has participated in

- Band “Křeni”, years active: 2000 – 2010, instruments played: guitar, violin, vocals. Awarded #1 European Bluegrass Band, La Roche Bluegrass Festival, France in 2009.
- Band “Petr Brandejs Band”, years active: 2003 – 2010, instruments played: guitar, violin, vocals.
- Band „Blackjack“ (as a guest), years active: 2006 – present, instrument played: violin. Awarded #1 European Bluegrass Band, EWOB, European World Of Bluegrass, Voorthuizen, The Netherlands in 2009 and #1 European Bluegrass Band, La Roche Bluegrass Festival, France in 2011.
- Band „G-runs ‘n Roses“, years active: 2012 – 2017, instruments played: guitar, violin, vocals. Awarded #1 European Bluegrass Band, La Roche Bluegrass Festival, France in 2016.
- Band „East-West“, years active: 2011 – 2020, instruments played: mandolin, vocals. Awarded #1 European Bluegrass Band, La Roche Bluegrass Festival, France in 2013.
- Band „Fragment“, years active: 2006 – 2013, instruments played: guitar, vocals.
- Duo „Ondra Kozák & Ralph Schut“, years active: 2008 – present, instruments played: guitar, violin, vocals.
- Band „New Aliquot“, years active: 2016 – present, instruments played: guitar, violin, mandolin, bass, vocals. Awarded #2 European Bluegrass Band, La Roche Bluegrass Festival, France in 2019.

- Duo „Radim Zenkl & Ondra Kozák“, years active: 2020 – present, instruments played: guitar, violin, dobro, bass, vocals.

Articles featuring Ondra Kozák

Bluegrass Today, 2023

<https://bluegrasstoday.com/bluegrass-beyond-borders-radim-zenkel-and-ondra-kozak-go-east/>

Seznam Médium, 2023

<https://medium.seznam.cz/clanek/sinuhet-evropsky-koncertni-projekt-radima-zenkla-s-ondrou-kozakem-26056>

Blanenský deník, 2023

<https://zenklkozak.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Blanensky-denik-Rovnost-Tyden-u-nas.pdf>
https://blanensky.denik.cz/zpravy_region/bluegrass-boskovice-zenkl-kozak-koncert-hudba-muzikanti-cd-nove-album.html

Bluegrassové listy, 2023

https://zenklkozak.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bluegrassove_listy_1_23_RZOK.pdf

Frontman, 2022

<https://www.frontman.cz/ondra-kozak-bluegrass-je-vybornym-ucitelem-techniky-rytmu-improvizace>

SvětKytar.cz, 2020

<https://www.svetkytar.cz/ondra-kozak-nejen-kytarovym-svetem>

Bluegrass Today, 2020

<https://bluegrasstoday.com/bluegrass-beyond-borders-ondra-kozak-makes-his-strings-sing/>

Bluegrass Today, 2014

<https://bluegrasstoday.com/ataman-from-ondra-kozak/>

Bluegrassové listy, 2013

https://www.bacr.cz/listy/bg_listy_01_2013.pdf

Folk magazine, 2011

https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Folk_2011_Mistri_kytariste_Ondra_Kozak.pdf

Bluegrass Europe, 2010

https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bluegrass_Europe_Kreni_2010.pdf

Reviews of Ondra Kozák's work

Bluegrass Today, USA, Lee Zimmerman, 2021

<https://bluegrasstoday.com/gravity-g-runs-n-roses/>

British Bluegrass News, UK, Brian Dowdall, 2020

<https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/British-Bluegrass-News-Review.jpg>

Akustik Gitarre, Germany, Andreas Schultz, 2020

https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Akustik_Gitarre_2020_Overtones.pdf

Bluegrass Unlimited, USA, 2019

<https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BG-Unlimited-review.jpg>

BlueGrass CZ, Czech Republic, Michal Hromčík, 2019

<https://bgcz.net/recenze/cd-rozhovor-ondra-kozak-overtones/>

British Bluegrass News, UK, Brian Dowdall, 2019

<https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/>

[British Bluegrass News Kozak Schut Bits Review 2019.pdf.pdf](#)

Bluegrass Bühne, Germany, Eberhard Finke, 2018

<https://ondrakoza.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Bluegrass Buehne 2018 Bits-review.pdf>

BlueGrass CZ, Czech Republic, Dušan Gemerský, 2018

<https://bgcz.net/recenze/cd-ondra-kozak-ralph-schut-bitsn-pieces/>

Shows and reports in media featuring Ondra Kozák

Česká televize (Czech Television), 2023

<https://youtu.be/wi9Dmtq70QA>

<https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/10435049455-dobre-rano/323291310020035/cast/974211/>

Schwäbische, 2023

<https://www.schwaebische.de/regional/ulm-alb-donau/ehingen/country-freunde-erleben-ganz-unterschiedliche-musikrichtungen-1563023>

SVZ., 2023

<https://www.svz.de/lokales/hagenow/artikel/windros-unterwegs-in-hagenower-synagoge-45463358>

Prerovský deník, 2023

<https://prerovsky.denik.cz/ctenar-reporter/hudebni-duo-radim-zenkl-s-ondrou-kozakem-vystoupi-na-terase-echa-v-lipniku-20230.html>

Třebíčský deník, 2023

<https://trebicky.denik.cz/ctenar-reporter/radim-zenk-slavek-janousek-koncert-narodni-dum-trebic-2023.html>

Radio Proglas, 2023

<https://www.proglas.cz/program/detail-poradu/2023-06-05-03-00-00/>

TV Noe, 2022

<https://www.tvnoe.cz/porad/33754-mezi-prazci-brezen-2022>

Český rozhlas Olomouc (Czech Radio), 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsqzU3pbj5o>

Česká televize (Czech Television), 2021

<https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/14687353926-adventni-koncerty-ceske-televize/221562224300003/>

IBMA Bluegrass Ramble – IBMA World of Bluegrass, 2021

<https://youtu.be/5dSdj4p89jI>

Český rozhlas Olomouc (Czech Radio), 2020

<https://youtu.be/RZrpdUJ8Nbc>

TV Polar, 2020

<https://polar.cz/zpravy/bruntalsko/bruntal/11000021554/bruntalsky-open-mic-probeh-jiz-potricate>

Mandolin Cafe / Mandolin Mondays, 2019

<https://www.mandolincafe.com/forum/entries/1284-Mandolin-Mondays-173-w-Special-Guest-Ondra-Koz%C3%A1k>

<https://youtu.be/htLAuhkcoKA>

Schwäbische, 2019

<https://www.schwaebische.de/regional/ulm-alb-donau/schelklingen/das-bluegrass-quartett-new-aliquot-rockt-das-stellwerk-241241>

Královédvorské listy, 2019

<http://www.kl.kralovedvorsko.cz/co-se-deje/hudba/vystoupeni-a-workshop-multiinstrumentlisty-ondry-kozaka.html>

Český rozhlas Pardubice (Czech Radio), 2019

<https://pardubice.rozhlas.cz/velmi-povedene-kousky-ondry-kozaka-a-ralfa-schuta-7723038>

Radio Proglas, 2018

<https://www.proglas.cz/program/detail-poradu/2018-12-04-19-15-00/?play=1>

Testimonials

"I have had the privilege of playing with Ondra a few times now over the last few years, and it is always a great experience. His professionalism, skill on multiple instruments, and ability to play many different genres and stylings makes him a top choice for anyone looking for a band mate or stand in musician. It is always a pleasure getting to perform with him, and I look forward to being able to do more with him in the future!"

Sep. 2017

Cia Cherryholmes, CO, USA

5-time Grammy nominated singer & songwriter

contact: ciacherryholmes@yahoo.com, <https://cherryholmes.com/cia>

"It was a great pleasure to work with Ondra on the DVD – his knowledge of the genre, attention to detail, feeling for the music and its connection with the image made all the work very easy and simple. When you add to that the adherence to deadlines, the meticulous execution of proofreading, and the willingness to do a few things we hadn't originally planned, you'll find that you wouldn't want to work with anyone else on a DVD."

Jun. 2019

Petr Brandejs, Czech Republic

banjo player, author of publications, chairman of the Bluegrass Association of the Czech Republic

contact: brandejs.banjo@gmail.com, <https://petrbrandejs.cz/>

"I would especially like to mention Ondra's very thorough preparation for the course. He really put a lot of effort into creating the study materials, and he has a natural talent for teaching, so the theory was very easy to digest. Also, probably because we dealt with quite specific problems related to playing country music (especially in the area of harmony). The biggest benefit – playing with the right hand, creating solo passages on his own."

May 2016

Zdeněk Tejkl, Czech Republic

participant of the violin workshop „Jesenický Shuffle“

contact: TejklZ@seznam.cz