A4 Professional Musicians

For many centuries, Roma and Sinti were employed as professional musicians by the nobility and in concert halls. Starting in the 19th century, Roma and Sinti received professional training in music schools, conservatories and universities. Many poor Roma found an additional source of income in winter playing music at dances and weddings. In many Roma families, the children still learn to play an instrument from their parents today.



1910 1951

1930-38

Did you know

... that the so-called Gypsy music played by “Gypsy orchestras” was actually developed by Hungarian musicians in the 19th century? It has nothing to do with the traditional music of the Roma and Sinti.

Your task

Can you name any other famous families of musicians? Find out more about Roma music and about Roma musicians in your country.

About the photo

The Hungarian Béla Ruha Gypsy Orchestra in a hotel in The Hague, Netherlands in the 1930s. Museum of Ethnography, Budapest, Hungary.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/a