

It is certain that Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679-1745) was in at least two locations during the first three decades of his life. He was born in, and most likely grew up in, the southern-central Bohemian market-town of Louňovice pod Blaníkem (hereafter, referred to as Louňovice). By the age of twenty-five he came to be in Prague, sixty kilometres north of Louňovice. We know this because in 1704 he composed and conducted the Latin school drama *Via Laureata* (ZWV 245) at the Jesuit college, St. Nicholas', Malá Strana (Lesser Town), Prague.¹ By the end of this thirty-year period, Zelenka was living in Prague in the residence of his long-term patron Johann Hubert von Hartig.² In 1709, he composed the Sepulchro cantata, *Immisit Dominus pestilentiam* (ZWV 58).³ This scant information tells us very little about the first three decades of Zelenka's life. They are shrouded in mystery. How did he find patronage with Hartig? Was he educated in Prague, with the Jesuits, as has been speculated?⁴ To begin to address this gap in evidence, I wish in this short article to draw attention to the early history of the Zelenka family in Louňovice and see if it is possible to draw some conclusions. To this end, this article presents several suggestions which are open to being investigated further.

The principal work on Zelenka's origins in Louňovice remains the article *Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský* (Cantor and Organist of Louňovice, Jiřík Zelenka of Bavorov), written in 1958 by Jaroslav Paleček.⁵ Paleček's research draws mostly from local, ecclesiastical and municipal archival sources. These include the parish registers, which since the late 2000s have become widely accessible to the public thanks to a digitisation program run by the State Regional Archives in Prague and other State Regional Archives across the country.⁶ The Louňovice parish baptismal registers document the godparents of Jan Dismas Zelenka and his siblings, as well as the numerous godchildren (to varying degrees of importance) which Zelenka's parents were

¹ STOCKIGT, Janice, *Jan Dismas Zelenka: A Bohemian Musician at the Court of Dresden* (Oxford University Press: 2000), p. 4.

² ĀGŪSTSSON, Johannes and STOCKIGT, Janice, 'Reflections and recent findings on the life and music of Jan Dismas Zelenka', *Clavibus unitis* 4 (2015), pp. 7-9, http://www.acecs.cz/media/cu_2015_04.pdf.

³ STOCKIGT, *Jan Dismas Zelenka* (↵ note 1), p. 5.

⁴ Zelenka's activity throughout his career, but especially the commissions of his *Sepulchri* cantatas (ZWV 58-60, in 1709-1716) and *Sub Oleea Pacis etc.* (in 1723) points to him being educated by the Jesuits at the Klementinum, but, so far, no evidence has been produced which conclusively proves the hypothesis.

⁵ PALEČEK, Jaroslav, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský', *Sborník vlastivědných prací z Podblanicka* 2 (1958), pp. 89-101.

⁶ Registers for most Central Bohemian towns and villages (for both Catholic and Protestant parishes) have steadily become available to view online. Please see: <http://www.genealogie.cz/aktivita/digitalizace/>, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/pages/In dexPage;jsessionid=C44542782D4F97D085BF743BBC632CD8?0>.

Sebastian SANYAL

MA Graduate, Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies,
University of York

The Zelenka family in Louňovice: Some findings from local history and parish registers

Abstract

Almost nothing is known about the first thirty years in the life of Jan Dismas Zelenka. This article aims to address the gap that exists in the evidence by drawing attention to the early stages of Zelenka family, namely the lives of Jiřík and Maria Magdalena Zelenka. I explore briefly the relationship between Louňovice pod Blaníkem and the Archbishopric of Prague, who gain jurisdiction over the market-town from 1672. The relationship between the Zelenka family and the aristocratic family Malovec of Malovice, Kámen, Zvěstov and Libouň, is considered. This research draws from parish baptismal and marital registers and follows from the thorough study of these materials by Lukáš Vokřínek in *Clavibus unitis* 2019. The study of registers has allowed some dates and statements made by Jaroslav Paleček in 1958 to be confirmed. Moreover, they have helped to reveal new information regarding Zelenka and his family, which will demand further investigation and discussion. Access to digitised files is thanks to State Regional Archives in Prague and Třeboň.

Key words: early modern history; 17th century; Bohemian Lands; rural areas; genealogy; parish registers; Louňovice pod Blaníkem; Zelenka, Jan Dismas; Zelenka Bavorovský, Jiřík; Zelenková, Marie Magdalena; Louňovice pod Blaníkem; Malovec of Malovice, Kámen, Zvěstov and Libouň; genealogy; parish registers

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witness to at baptisms.⁷ These particular entries start in 1677, the year of the marriage of Jiřík and Marie Magdalena Zelenka, and finish in 1716.⁸ Thankfully, these baptismal registers have recently been surveyed, detailed and analysed comprehensively by historian Lukáš Vokřínek in an article published in *Clavibus unitis* 2019.⁹ This publication does not cover marital and death registers (kept in the same source books), which could provide further information for study. Vokřínek has identified the godparents of Zelenka's siblings, as well as the families which the Zelenka couple acted as godparents to (or, baptismal witnesses). I suggest that at least one godparent family, the Malovec of Malovice (z Malovic), who we will return to towards the end of this article, could have sufficient status and wealth to potentially have been the patrons of the Zelenka family. They may have provided Zelenka's route to his musical career in Prague. At the very least, the evidence from the registers supports the hypothesis that Zelenka's parents, Jiřík and Marie Magdalena, were highly regarded in the local region and had connections with local landowners and nobility.¹⁰

Immediate historical context of Louňovice

There is little which needs updating regarding the timeline of the Zelenka family's arrival and activity in Louňovice.¹¹ However, I will give a brief exploration of the historical context, as it may give some bearing upon the possibilities which were open to the young Zelenka. In 1672, jurisdiction and ownership of Louňovice was transferred to the Archbishopric of Prague. The previous lord of Louňovice, Karel Adam Lev of Říčany, died heirless in the year 1672, and left the town and all his holdings to the Archbishopric of Prague. Louňovice was then (and still is) a small market-town, but it had grown significantly over the decades under Adam of Říčany.¹² He also funded the construction of the Baroque Church building dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a chapel to Mary Magdalene in Malý Blaník, to which pilgrimages were made regularly.¹³ To this sacred place Zelenka's mother possibly owes her name. The Archbishopric authorised the building of a new school and presbytery for the parish, in which the Zelenka family took residence alongside the new parish priest.¹⁴ This priest was Jan Ignatius Komenský, notable for being traditionally recognised as the nephew of Jan Amos Komenský ('Comenius'), and who would baptise Jan Dismas Zelenka.¹⁵

Above the gateway to the château of Louňovice, the coat of arms of Jan Bedřich of Valdštejn (Johann Friedrich von Waldstein) is emblazoned (➤ Fig. 1). It marks the end of renovations to the château in 1675, and has led to the assumption that these were largely implemented by the Archbishopric. There is a chapel inside, commonly called the "Archbishop's Chapel", which is decorated in high-baroque stucco.¹⁶ However, a thesis by Ondřej Drlík questions this. In his survey of the material history of the château, he argues that all the major structural work, including the chapel, was done under Adam Lev of Říčany, and that after his death there was left only interior decoration.¹⁷ The coat of arms may have therefore functioned more as a public symbol to mark the change of ownership. Drlík also mentions that from 1673-1676, the running of the château was tasked to an Imperial Councillor, Jan Jakub Pecelius of Adlersheim (z Adlersheimu), with instructions to finish off renovations and to host the Arch-

⁷ During this period there were three degrees of godparenthood, 'levans' (of highest value), 'patrinus' and 'testis' (of lesser importance).

⁸ VOKŘÍNEK, Lukáš, 'Kmotrovství v rodině kantora a varhaníka Jiříka Zelenky Bavorovského', *Clavibus unitis* 8 (2019), p. 10, http://www.acecs.cz/media/cu_2019_08_01_vokrinek.pdf.

⁹ VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↵ note 8).

¹⁰ VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↵ note 8), p. 1, supports this: '[...]the family was among the most prominent ones in the parish, which had its bearing on the position of the young Jan Dismas Zelenka'.

¹¹ A good English-language summary can be found in Stockigt, *Jan Dismas Zelenka* (↵ note 1), chapter: 'Early Years in Bohemia', which takes its information mostly from Jaroslav Paleček.

¹² ZEMANOVA, Jana, *Historie Louňovic pod Bláníkem*, bachelor's (Bc.) thesis (Plzeň: Filozofická fakulta Západočeské univerzity v Plzni, 2012) pp. 29-33, <https://theses.cz/id/5o2v5m/?lang=en>.

¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 32-33.

¹⁴ PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (↵ note 5), pp. 92-93.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 95.

¹⁶ DRLÍK, Ondřej, *Zámek Louňovice pod Bláníkem. Historie objektu, zhodnocení jeho architektury a umělecké výzdoby*, bachelor's (Bc.) thesis (České Budějovice: Filozofická fakulta Jihočeské univerzity v Českých Budějovicích, 2012), p. 69, <https://theses.cz/id/8ua1vj/?lang=en>.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 69.



Fig. 1:
Coat of arms
of Jan Bedřich of
Valdštejn, Louňovice
pod Bláníkem, 1675,
https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wmTBW5_Erb_Jana_Bedricha_z_Valdtejna_Lounovice_pod_Blankem_Czech_Republic

bishop if he were ever travelling to Červená Řečice.¹⁸ Červená Řečice is a large castle complex around 30 kilometres south west of Louňovice, and was a favoured country residence for successive Prague Archbishops up to the 1940s.¹⁹ If this reference by Drlík could be verified, then it would open up an interesting possibility – if an Archbishop did ever stay in Louňovice, then they could have been entertained by local musicians, which would have included Zelenka himself.

Jan Bedřich of Valdštejn was Archbishop from 1675 until his death in 1694. Valdštejn was also Grand Master of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star in Prague, an order which is known for its links later to Zelenka's patron Johann Hubert von Hartig.²⁰ Valdštejn was one of the most powerful men in Bohemia, with a brother who was also Ambassador to the Habsburgs and Poland-Saxony, Karel Ferdinand of Valdštejn (Karl Ferdinand von Waldstein).²¹ If anyone could open

doors for Zelenka, it would be him. However, Zelenka would have been just fifteen years old at the time of Valdštejn's death. His successor was Johann Joseph von Breuner, who dies in 1710. It is to his episcopacy, or perhaps at the very end of Valdštejn's, that we should look for a connection with Zelenka to be found. At this point the question is wide open, with little to no evidence to support such a premise.

Origins of the Zelenka family

Zelenka's father, Jiřík Zelenka, was born in Bavorov, another market-town in Southern Bohemia (around 95 kilometres South-West of Louňovice), on 12 April, 1655 (► Fig. 2). He would have



Fig. 2:
Baptismal entry of
Jiřík Zelenka, christened
12 April [1655],
father also called Jiřík,
described as 'Servus'.
See footnote 22 for reference
and web-link.

been only twenty-one when he was appointed cantor and organist at Louňovice and twenty-four when Jan Lukáš was born. This date, provided first by Paleček, can now be fully corroborated.²² Likewise, the baptism of his elder sister, Alžběta, Jan Dismas' aunt, can be confirmed as

¹⁸ DRLÍK, Ondřej, *Zámek Louňovice pod Bláníkem* (◀ note 16), p. 23.

¹⁹ See 'Historie do r. 1948', *Zámek Červená Řečice. Historie*, s. d., <https://cervenarecice.cz/Historie.php>.

²⁰ KAPSA, Václav and MADL, Claire: 'Weiss, the Hartigs and the Prague Academy Music Academy: Research into the "profound silence" left by a "pope of music"', *Journal of the Lute Society of America* 33 (2000), pp. 47-85. See also VEVERKA, Karel: 'Hudební mecenát hraběte Jana Huberta Hartiga u pražských křižovníků s červenou hvězdou ve světle řádového listinného archivu', *Hudební věda* 51 (2014), pp. 161-170.

²¹ HRBEK, Jiří, 'Hledat a nalézat: Barokní Valdštejnové a jejich informační síť', *Theatrum historiae* 9 (2011), pp. 313-331, <http://hdl.handle.net/10195/58463>.

²² PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (◀ note 5), p. 93. Baptismal entry: Státní oblastní archiv (SOA) v Třeboni – oddělení Třeboň, *Sbírka matrik Jihočeského kraje, 1587-1949* (1952), Bavorov, Matrika č. 1 (1641-1663), p. 87 / State Regional Archives in Třeboň – Department Třeboň, *Collection of South Bohemian Parish Registers, 1587-1949* (1952), Bavorov, Book no. 1 (1641-1663), p. 87, <https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/2015/48>.

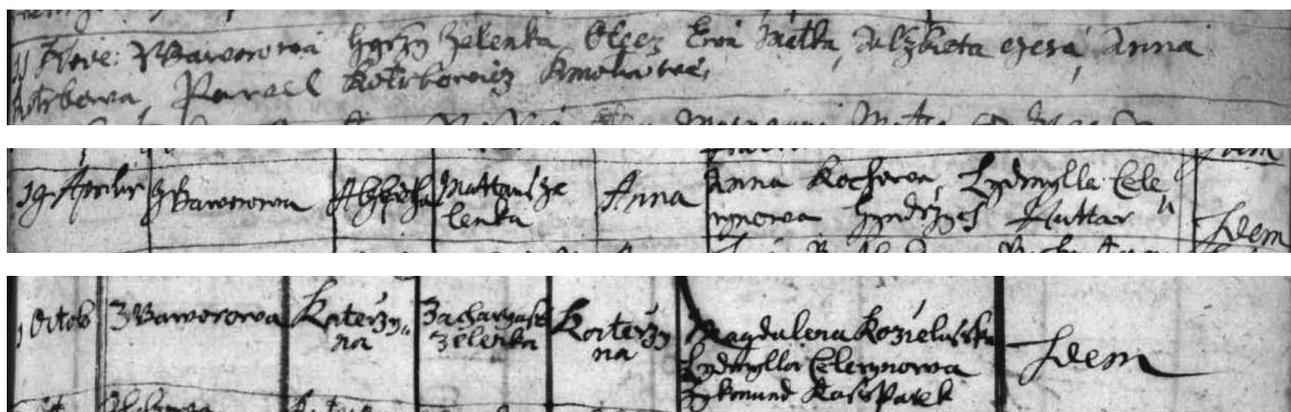


Fig. 3a-c:

Bavorov baptismal registers:

- a) 11 November [1652], Jiří Zelenka, father, and Eva, mother, of daughter Alžběta
 b) 19 April [1647] Alžběta, daughter of Matouš Zelenka and Anna;
 c) 1 October [1647], Kateřina, daughter of Zachariáš Zelenka and Kateřina.

See footnotes 23 and 24 for references and web-links.

11 November, 1652 (➤ Fig. 3a).²³ In the process of searching for these entries, I have uncovered two other members of the Zelenka family. These are Matouš and Zachariáš Zelenka, and their wives Anna and Kateřina, who both gave birth to daughters in 1647 (➤ Fig. 3b-c).²⁴ These could perhaps be uncles and aunts of Jiřík Zelenka. Jiřík Zelenka the elder, is described in his son's baptismal entry with the Latin word "Servus", which was noted originally by Paleček.²⁵ This probably means that he was a servant to a household.

Jiřík the younger arrived in Louňovice in early 1676 and married Marie Magdalena Hájková the following year on the 7 November. Judging by their marital register entry, their wedding was a celebrated affair, attracting "many people, both from across the land and from home".²⁶ Marie is described as the daughter of "the much renowned Mr. Václav Hájek Oumonínský", who had been the Equerry or Stable-master to the previous Lord Říčan.²⁷ The name Oumonínský could imply that he was from Úmonín, a village south of Kutná Hora. Hájek seems to have owned the largest amount of land in Louňovice. According to Paleček this was "30 korců", the equivalent of 21 Acres or 8.5 hectares.²⁸ Paleček also refers to some large estates that Hájek temporarily comes to possess in Petrov. At some stage he remarries and moves out of Louňovice to Vravovice to become an innkeeper. Being the stablemaster of Louňovice, he must have maintained close contact with the administration of the chateau, which Paleček points out would have greatly benefitted Jiřík Zelenka and his new family.²⁹ Marie Magdalena's relatively well-off background is crucial to understanding why the Zelenka family became such successful and well-connected figures in the town and local region.

Zodiacal addenda

It was to this promising situation that Jan Lukáš Zelenka was born in 1679. The baptismal entry is written in the hand of his father and contains a peculiar reference to Zelenka being born on 'Aquarius' (jest rozen na Vodnáři).³⁰ Paleček was the first to notice it in 1958, and it takes some explanation.³¹ It seems that for significant baptismal entries, like the baptisms of his other seven children, Jiřík Zelenka included the lunar stage in the zodiac in which the child was born. This means that in theory it is possible to work out the date of Jan Dismas

²³ SOA v Třeboni, Bavorov, Matrika č. 1 (1641-1663) (↵ note 22), p. 76, <https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/2015/41> (Fig. 3a).

²⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 57, <https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/2015/32> (Fig. 3b); p. 60, <https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/2015/33> (Fig. 3c).

²⁵ PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (↵ note 5), p. 93.

²⁶ '[...] a jiných mnohých, jak přespólních, i domácích.' Státní oblastní archiv (SOA) v Praze, Matriky, Louňovice pod Bláníkem 01 (1660-1685), p. 193 / State Regional Archives in Prague, Collection Parish Registers, Louňovice pod Bláníkem 01 (1660-1685), p. 193, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8165/101>.

²⁷ PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (↵ note 5), p. 94. VOKRÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↵ note 8), p. 6, corrects Paleček's spelling of 'Aumonínský' to 'Oumonínský'.

²⁸ PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (↵ note 5), p. 94.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ SOA v Praze, Matriky, Louňovice pod Bláníkem 01 (1660-1685) (↵ note 26), p. 127, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8165/67>. Jiřík Zelenka was the principal recorder of parish registers until the late 1710s.

³¹ PALEČEK, 'Louňovický kantor a organista Jiřík Zelenka Bavorovský' (↵ note 5), p. 94.



Fig. 4:
Baptismal register
of Veronika Marta,
daughter of Jiří Zelenka,
with godparent Marie
Veronika Malovcová.
See footnote 34 for refer-
ence and web-link.

Zelenka's birth by looking at the lunar calendar for that week.³² For his next child, Terezie, born on 24 July 1682, he writes 'Rozena na Blížencích' – born in Gemini.³³ Then there are Veronika Marta (➤ Fig. 4), and Kateřina Žofie where we see that their zodiacal addenda have been censored.³⁴ There is also another entry underneath Veronika Marta's, for a 'Jozef', not of the Zelenka family, in which the zodiac month Leo is just visible between the lines. These crossings out are from the second tome of baptismal entries (from 1685-1719).³⁵ This recording of the child's lunar sign in the zodiac is a very unusual practice, which I have not observed elsewhere either in the Bavorov registers or in Louňovice, prior to Jiřík's arrival. We can conclude that Jiřík had a keen interest in astrology. We can further speculate: did this love for astrology and its lunar calculations rub off onto Jan Dismas and hence, his music?

Godparenthood: the Malovec of Malovice and the Kherner families

In his article, Lukáš Vokřínek concludes that the local social connections of the Zelenka family, as made apparent in their godparenthood and their godparents, are quite sizeable and suggest that their role in the parish region (which go beyond just the market-town of Louňovice to include several local villages and hamlets) was very significant.³⁶ He argues that this could have been as a result of the family acting as a bridge between local government and the rural populace. Of the names compiled by Vokřínek listing the godparents of the Zelenka children, there are two sets of names that are particularly notable. The first is the family Malovec (plural: Malovcové) of Malovice (z Malovic). Vokřínek comments that even if we were to ignore the presence of the high-born Malovec of Malovice family in the baptismal entries of the Zelenka family, they still had a remarkable network of social connections within the region.³⁷ This was an aristocratic family with many branches whose members rarely entered governing roles. The one exception was Jan Kryštof Malovec of Malovice, Kámen, Zvěstov and Libouň (c. 1625-1677), who held an honorary seat on the Imperial Council, was provincial judge and some-time

³² There used to exist a website (www.prediapp.com) in which the date could be retro-calculated (it showed that in Prague, 13th-14th October 1679, the moon sign was Aquarius). However, this no longer exists and the current site no longer allows retro-calculation. I am grateful to Jóhannes Ágústsson for clearing up this mystery of the zodiac during initial research.

³³ SOA v Praze, Matriky, Louňovice pod Blaníkem 01 (1660-1685) (↵ note 26), p. 156, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8165/82>.

³⁴ SOA v Praze, Matriky, Louňovice pod Blaníkem 02 (1685-1719) (↵ note 26), fol. 1^r, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8166/3> (Fig. 4); fol. 2^r, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8166/5>.

³⁵ It is unknown by whom, why and when the censorship occurred.

³⁶ VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↵ note 8), p. 27.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 26.



Fig. 5:
Zvěstov, c. 1810 ('Das B. Malowetzische Schloss Zwiestow im Kaurzimer Kreise'), watercolour by Johann Venuto (1746-1833). Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Inv.-Nr. +Z208041606, http://www.bildarchiv.austria.at/Pages/ImageDetail.aspx?p_iBildID=11402758

governor (hejtman) of Prague's Lesser Town (Malá Strana).³⁸ In 1674, he obtained Zvěstov and Libouň, two village estates within five kilometres east of Louňovice.³⁹ After his death in 1677, these went under the guardianship of his second wife, Marie Veronika until their eldest children came of age for inheritance in 1690.⁴⁰

Marie Veronika Malovcová of Malovice (z Malovic, c. 1636-1695) was born into the family Švihovský of Rýzmbek (z Rýzmbek, Schwihau von Riesenberg), whose house was considered of lordly ('Herrenstand' or 'panský stav') status in the Holy Roman Empire.⁴¹ It is with some surprise then that we find her as godmother to the Zelenkas' third child, Veronika Marta. Her name was likely chosen in honour of her noble-born godmother. The baptism, dated 4 February 1685, reads (↪ Fig. 4):

Vysoce urozená paní, paní Marie Veronika Malovcová, paní na Zvěstově a Kámeně.

The Highly Noble-born Lady, Mrs Marie Veronika Malovcová, Lady of Zvěstov and Kámen.⁴²

This finding is highly significant, because it implies that the Zelenkas had close social ties with this family. This is further supported by the fact that other members of the family also become godparents and witnesses to the baptisms of four other children.⁴³

The Malovec family certainly had connections with the capital because of Jan Kryštof's role as 'hejtman' of Prague's Lesser Town. Could they have provided the means for young Jan Dismas to have started his education and career there? Marie Veronika seems to have died in 1695, so, as was the case with Archbishop Valdštejn, Zelenka would have been around the age of sixteen.⁴⁴ Her children, then, also become important to us. The family fortune was split between her four sons. The eldest, also named Jan Kryštof after his father, becomes heir and inherits the family estate at Kámen. The next eldest, Antonín Maxmilián Bernard, inherits Zvěstov. Václav František inherits Libouň and builds a new château there. Jan František inherits

³⁸ TOMÁŠEK, Jan: 'Malovcové z Malovic', *Hrad Kámen*, s. d., <http://www.hradkamen.cz/malovcove.html>.

³⁹ 'Stručná historie zámku v Libouňi', *Zámek Libouň*, s. d., <http://www.zamekliboun.eu/historie>.

⁴⁰ TOMÁŠEK, 'Malovcové z Malovic' (↪ note 38), <http://www.hradkamen.cz/malovcove.html>.

⁴¹ VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↪ note 8), p. 37 (entry for 1692, Marie Markéta); HALADA, Jan, *Lexikon české šlechty* (Praha: Akropolis, 1992), pp. 160-161.

⁴² SOA v Praze, Matriky, Louňovice pod Blaníkem 02 (1685-1719) (↪ note 26), fol. 1r, <https://ebadatelna.soapraha.cz/d/8166/3>.

⁴³ These members are listed in VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↪ note 8), p. 26.

⁴⁴ The source detailing the death of Marie Veronika Malovcová of Malovice has yet to be identified.

Sudovice, a village in Western-Central Bohemia.⁴⁵ The family château of Zvěstov is now unfortunately in ruins, however, we get a good idea of how the household was still thriving in the late eighteenth century by a watercolour which names the family (↖ Fig. 5).

The other figure of prominence in the Zelenka family registers is Maximilian Václav Kherner of Rudolfštat (z Rudolfštatu). He is godparent (to the degree of 'levans') to two of the Zelenka children, Kateřina Žofie (1687) and Matěj Václav (1690).⁴⁶ His wife is witness (to the degree of 'patrinus' / 'testis') to two Zelenka children. Kherner is governor ('hejtman') of Louňovice and would have lived in the château. There is nothing more about the Kherners that I have been able to discover. It should be emphasised, however, that he provides a direct link to the Archbishopric of Prague, his employer.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the mark which the Zelenka family leave upon the history of Louňovice is considerable for a family not of noble descent.⁴⁷ But the question still remains: how did he get to Prague? The region of Louňovice pod Blaníkem should be reconsidered for further research, especially considering its connection to the capital via the Archbishopric of Prague. The quiet countryside market-town may not be so impressive to us today, but Zelenka grew up in a place which was witnessing development, and so should leave some further historical traces. Hopefully, it will reveal more clues as to Zelenka's early life. This quote from Johann Ferdinand von Schönfeld (➤ Fig. 6a-c), cited by Janice B. Stockigt in her book, still remains an accurate guess of what may have happened in Zelenka's case:

Many musicians who are still alive come from the smallest places and from small Bohemian village schools. The opportunity to form a truly artistic genius was given only there, [... if ...] one of the children showed outstanding ability, then the little virtuoso had to perform in public. [...] After these successful musical exercises the boy was taken to an establishment where, apart from training in music, he could continue his other studies. [...] Because monasteries, prelates, and recognized families were then known as protectors and patrons of music, an opportunity was soon found to secure a place for young artistic geniuses in an orchestra or *Kapelle*.⁴⁸

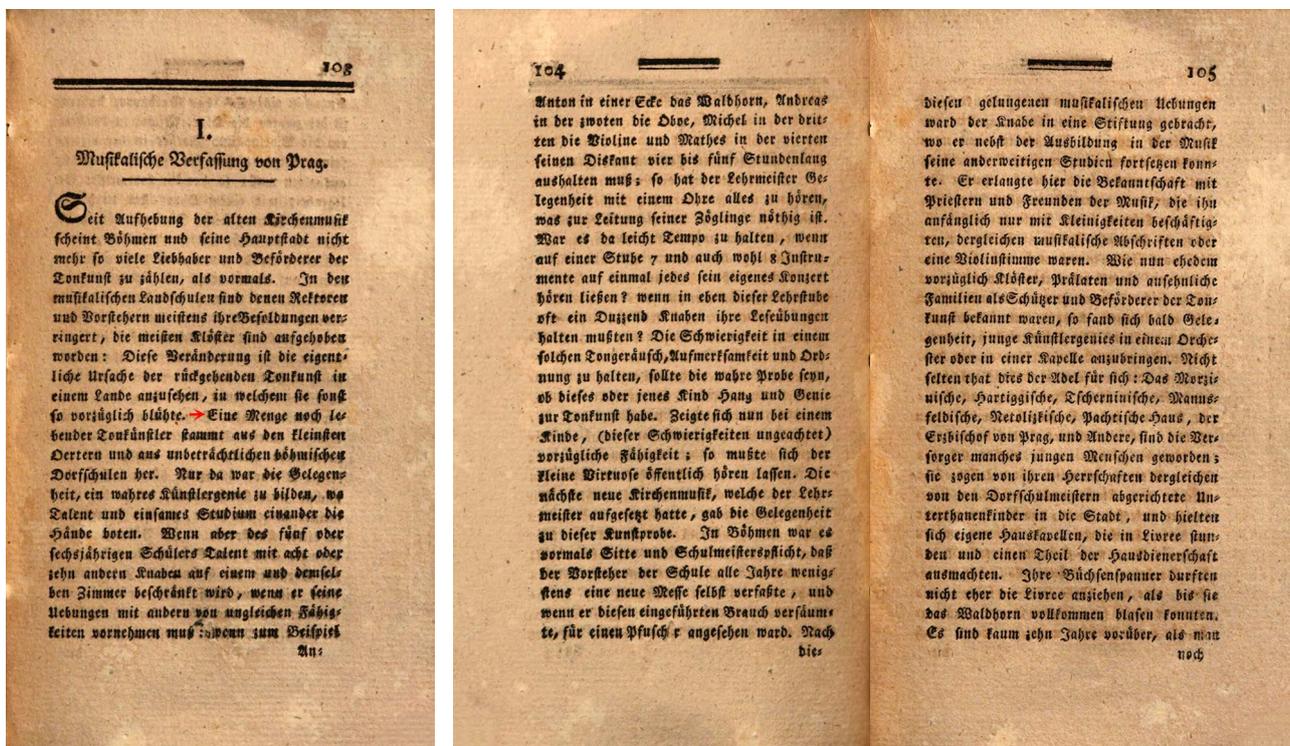


Fig. 6a-c:
J. F. von Schönfeld,
*Jahrbuch der Tonkunst
von Wien und Prag*
(Vienna 1796),
pp. 103-105. See foot-
note 48 for reference
and web-link.

⁴⁵ TOMÁSEK, 'Malovcové z Malovic' (↖ note 38), <http://www.hradkamen.cz/malovcove.html>.

⁴⁶ VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↖ note 8), p. 37.

⁴⁷ For a thorough exploration of the evidence for this based on the registers, please see VOKŘÍNEK, 'Kmotrovství' (↖ note 8).

⁴⁸ SCHÖNFELD, Johann Ferdinand von (ed.), *Jahrbuch der Tonkunst von Wien und Prag* ([Vienna]: Schönfeld, 1796; repr. 1976), chapter 'Musikalische Verfassung von Prag', pp. 103-108, here pp. 103-105, <http://data.onb.ac.at/rep/10596975>; cited in STOCKIGT, *Jan Dismas Zelenka* (↖ note 1), pp. 2-4.

It is worth noting that Schönfeld explicitly describes a 'boy' rather than a 'man'. This therefore does allow for the possibility of both Marie Veronika Malovcová of Malovice and Archbishop Valdštejn as patronal candidates. Zelenka's genius must have come from somewhere, and it seems that his parents do not disappoint in this regard. The Zelenka family achieved high status in Louňovice over a relatively short period. Jiřík seemingly appears out of nowhere on the registers, becoming cantor and organist at the very young age of twenty-one, and quickly becomes a central part of local and regional society. He and Marie Magdalena were clearly an impressive couple, who must have made strong impressions on the local gentry. As Schönfeld states, patrons were of course needed to nurture the successful career of such a genius. This required a certain level of social standing. Zelenka's parents were themselves the children of servants or subjects of noble households, and so they were probably raised to be highly aware of the life and etiquette of the landed classes. Their efforts would have aided Zelenka early on in his career and later with the Wettins in Dresden.