

# Minnesota Music Hall of Fame Inductee



## Ray Valek

### Inducted in 2006

There is a saying, “To be Czech is to be musical.” The Valek family is no exception.

His first memory of music is begging his great-grandfather to play his violin. At the age of 11, his father bought a button accordion for Ray to play. In his teens at neighborhood gatherings, he had the opportunity to play drums and received great acclamation from the audience. This marked the beginning of Ray’s drumming career.

In 1946, Ray joined the band, Musicians Union and received about \$5 per night for their dances. In 1954, Ray bought a new drum set and as of this writing, still uses them today.

In 2005, at the age of 88, he played over 70 times with various groups for parades, Bandwagon, weddings, anniversaries, dances, bars, church functions, community festivals and polka fests. Ray Valek is living proof that ‘to be a Czech is to be musical.’”

