

Czech Schools for Musical Instrument Makers

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140 Years of the School for Musical Instrument Makers in Kraslice

The first makers of musical instruments probably settled in the Kraslice area as early as the latter half of the 16th century. In the middle of the 19th century there were already several established businesses in Kraslice in musical instrument making. The manufacture and lathe work, which developed from previous work, with the need for expert help in musical instrument making. Then when the idea was conceived to found a special school for the future maker of musical instrument and combine it with music teaching. The founder of the school was Baron Richard von Dotauer, highly educated man living in Kraslice and deputy to the Imperial Reichstag in Vienna.

During its 140-year-long existence, the

school and later with the introduction of special subjects it became a school. The present name of the school is Secondary Vocational School and Secondary Apprentice Training Centre for Musical Instrument Makers, providing education in the following branches of study and apprentice training:

Manufacture of musical instruments

a one-year course that focuses on the manufacture, repair, and restoration of musical instruments. Studies are completed with the secondary school-leaving examination. **Wind instrument technician** - three-year apprentice training course aimed at the manufacture of wind

instrument making. Studies are completed with the secondary school-leaving examination or the entire duration of its existence, the school's activities have been linked to music, be it organising the Kraslice Music Spring festival of holding various competitions and brass band concerts or orchestras composed of school pupils. The school's fixed choir founded thirty years ago by teacher Jaroslav Malíšek, who leads it to this day, also enjoys great popularity.

During its existence, the school has educated hundreds of specialists, who work in a number of branches, not only in the Czech Republic, but also in many other countries worldwide.

The Czech Organ Making School

The development of organ making has called for special education, as the organ represents the combination of craftsmanship with knowledge of material processing and music. To meet this requirement, a Secondary Organ Making School was founded in Krnov in 1992, and developed into a beneficiary corporation educating the makers of this royal instrument. Its graduates may obtain the ES certificate allowing them to work in EU states. The study duration is four years and is completed by a secondary school-leaving examination in artistic organ building. In recent years, students from neighboring countries, e.g. Slovakia, came to Krnov to study organ making. One of the first graduates is Tomáš Aílek, who after completing his studies went to work with the German firm Gb Oberlinger in Windesheim or a year to gain practice. Since 2000, he has worked with Sieger-Kloss as an intoner, with assignments in South Korea, China, Taiwan, Bulgaria, Russia, and the US. In addition to his artistic training and intoning, he also plays the organ himself. In 2003 he took part in a concert for the US. Another successful graduate of the school is Robert Ponča, who has founded the company Robert Ponča Varhany (www.ponca-organs.co). He takes credit, for example, for the restoration



Photo: Archives of SVS and SATC for Musical Instrument Makers in Kraslice

The school in Kraslice has brought up hundreds of accomplished makers of musical instruments, working in many countries the world over

school underwent complicated development. At the time of its founding it focused on the artisan production of musical instruments and active music teaching. The first it as

instruments. Training is completed by the final examination and a certificate of apprenticeship.

Art and handicraft manufacture of musical instruments - a one-year

Czech Musical Instruments

and reconstruction of organs in Brač, Croatia, and Zrínyi, Switzerland, and the reconstruction of the organ in Lednice, Czech Republic.

Organ building has its history. Expert care must be given to existing instruments, while old instruments must be repaired and restored, and possibilities offered by new technologies must be taken advantage of. The graduates of the organ school, which is unique in Central Europe, are making a contribution to all this.

School of Piano and Furniture Making

In the past, the Secondary Vocational School and Secondary Apprentice Training Centre for Musical Instrument and Furniture Makers in Hradec Králové continues today in its cooperation with PET OF s.r.o., the largest piano manufacturer in Europe. With so exaggeration it can be said that the piano is a marvelous solitary piece of furniture which, in addition, can be used to play music. That is why this school, in addition to training future piano makers, also teaches handicraft production with a specialisation in woodwork, and furniture making especially. Besides preparing pupils in day courses, the secondary school for musical instruments and furniture makers during the holidays it holds woodcarving seminars, special finishing and woodworking courses.

The school co-operates with important specialists and institutions and is a member of the Czech Piano Makers' Association, with which it organises specialised seminars for the other members.

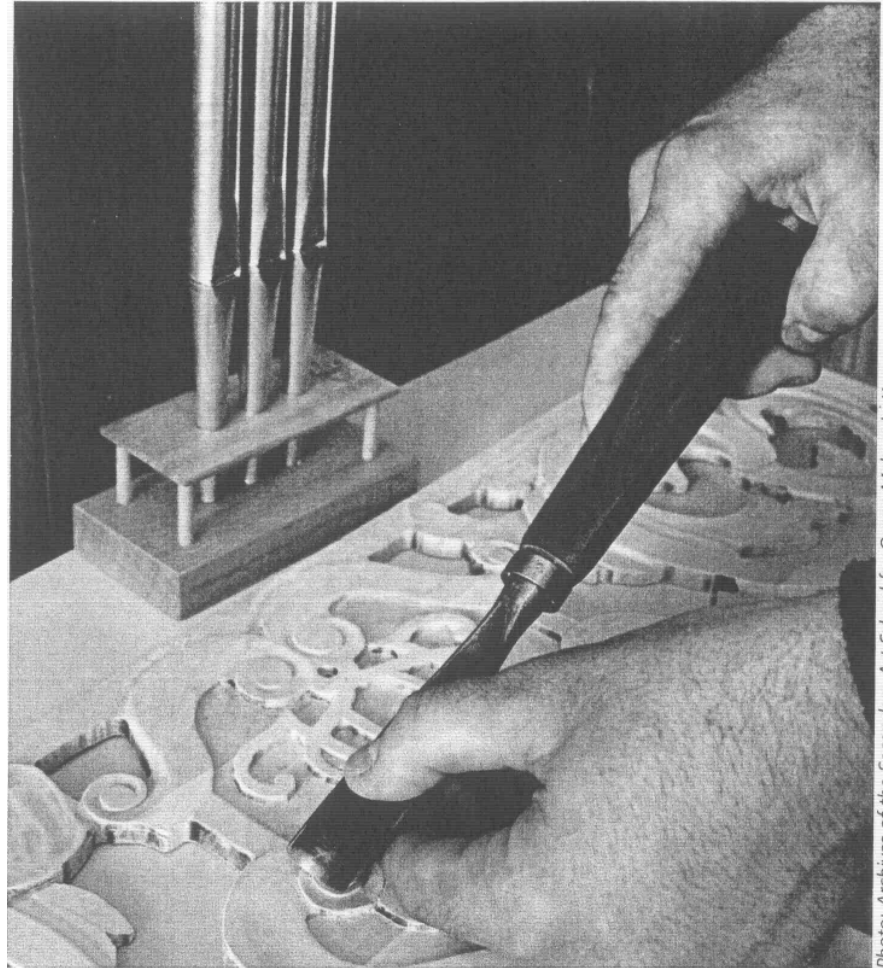


Photo: Archives of the Secondary Art School for Organ Makers in Krnov

Woodcarving is an inseparable part of organ building

For further education, the school's exams will contribute towards the preparing master piano-builders, further development and improvement of courses and exams. Teachers and specialists of the piano-making craft of the Czech Piano Makers' Association are convinced that the



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Fotografía: La Escuela media de formación profesional y el Centro de formación profesional de construcción de instrumentos musicales y muebles en Hradec Králové

La formación de los jóvenes especialistas resulta muy importante para el desarrollo ulterior de la rama