



170th anniversary
The brass band
of



**ŽELEZIARNE®
PODBREZOVA**

1838 - 2008



170 Years

The board of the joint-stock company Železiarne Podbrezová congratulates the brass orchestra on the beautiful 170th anniversary, which is enhanced by the fact that at the same time it is the celebration of the establishment of the first brass band in Slovakia.

Just as our ironworks has passed through a long, often very winding way in its historical development, and it has clawed its way to the level of top European mini-ironworks, so the brass band has experienced the years of hard work marked with blooming, but also with getting over difficult periods. The brass band has become an inherent part of the Podbrezová ironworks; after all, its quality has grown along with the company's progress.

For the present 45 musicians it is certainly big satisfaction that they can carry the baton of the past generations. We pay homage to all those professionals, but also to the music lovers, who, during past years, have strived so that the name Podbrezová would not ring only with the high quality of steel, but also with the spellbinding tones of wind instruments.

During 170 years, an outstanding musical group, popular not only in Slovakia, but also abroad, has grown up from a small workman's band. And we would like to thank you for that from the heart.

For the future we wish you mainly good health and desire to spread the goodwill of our ironworks with your high-quality music and excellent reputation.

The board of Železiarne Podbrezová a.s.



One hundred and seventy years of existence

The beginnings of the musical life of metallurgical workers are connected with the then centre for iron production and processing – with Hrončiansky complex. The Roman Catholic priest Tomáš Hromada engaged in the social status of metallurgical workers and their national awareness since his arrival to Hronec. He was one of the first organizers of public education in Slovakia who lived and worked among workers. He established and led a band and a workman's theatre in Hronec. He bought musical instruments for about a twelf-membered orchestra for the money coming from the public collection, which was organized by him and teachers. The History Domus A.D. 1778 -1938 gives evidence about donators' generosity.

Apart from religious celebrations, the band played at various workmen's and company's events, as it is proved by performances at workman's theatrical performances, state, and hammer

celebrations. In 1867, the band welcomed the departmental minister at his visit of the state ironworks.

In the second half of the 19th century, with the transition of the administration of the Hrončiansky complex to Podbrezová, the band was also relocated. It performed again at important company's events, as well as at celebrations, dance parties, and balls.

The period of the second half of the 19th century was known for rises, but also falls, expansions, but also lack of musicians.



The band of two musical groups – the brass band and the concert band with complete wind and string cast, was created from the rests of Moštenica and Hronec bands thanks to the bandmaster Antonín Kříž from Morava. In that period, Czech musicians considerably strengthened the Podbrezová band and improved its quality. The members of the band had their first night performance in Radvaň, in the beginning of December 1918, in front of a multi-thousand crowd, during the vow of freed people at the Sládkovič's grave.

The first post-war bandmaster was Chvapil, who was later replaced by Karol Hübner. Also the posts in particular sections were distributed. Hübner had opera and symphonic practice, therefore he engaged in concert activity, and Prokop, with practice in military bands, was in charge of three brass bands and a concert orchestra (in Tisovec, the band existed since 1892, the second one was in Podbrezová, and the third in Hronec).

During the first half of the 20th century, the Podbrezová band expanded by new orchestras – a parlour one, a string quartet, a body of tambourine players; and the choir Slovan became its part, too.

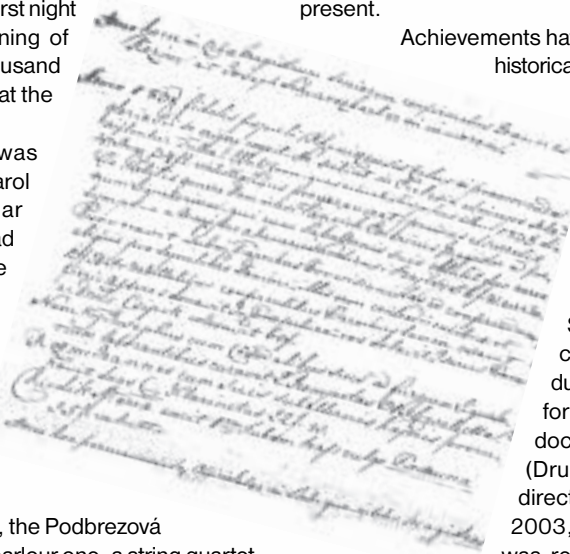
Since its beginnings, the musical life has been closely connected with the Podbrezová ironworks, and nowadays they are connected too. The orchestra, apart from a short break during 1925 – 1937, has been supported by the employees of the company with their voluntary contributions. However, the greatest support to the brass

band, since its establishment up to the present, has been the Podbrezová ironworks with its material and personal background. In the second half of the 20th century, the ironworks built a building – Hudobný pavilón (Musical pavilion) for the musicians at the housing estate Kolkáreň, where they have resided and practised up to the present.

Achievements have been coming on under the baton of historically famous and also not so much famous bandmasters such as Václav Prokop, Ľudovít Adamčík, Imrich Gažovič, Peter Zaoral, Pavol Šianský, Pavol Machajdik. The current chief conductor of the orchestra, pplk. Jozef Kráľ, successfully leads the orchestra in their footsteps.

Several recordings for the Slovak radio, concert programs in spa towns, and during festive occasions were animations for orchestra members. Two television documentary films about the brass band (Druhý dych and Zastavený čas), under direction of Tomáš Hučko, were made. In 2003, the first CD of the Brass band of ŽP was released on the occasion of its 165th anniversary. The co-operation of this musical

group with the composers Gregor Roletzký and Adam Hudec, who dedicated a special composition "Podbrezovská polka" to the orchestra, has become historic. The arranger Miroslav Hlaváček has adapted several tens of compositions for the orchestra. In these compositions he masterfully used specific background music of the Podbrezová brass band.

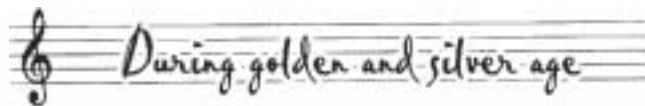
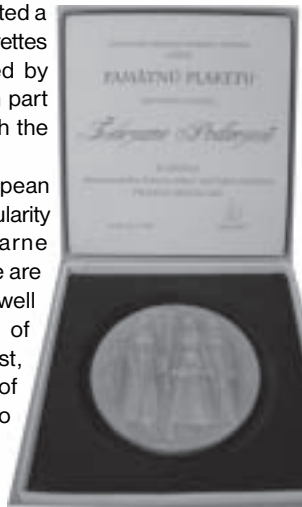


The period of the activity of the conductor Peter Zaoral became turning. A new period concerning the quality and content of the brass band in Podbrezová started under his baton. Bandmaster's ardour and tenaciousness showed right in the first years of his performance. The results from district and regional shows proved that. The wide repertoire contained not only typical compositions for brass orchestra, but also compositions, operas, operettas, and hits from musicals. Neither modern music, nor jazz caused problems the members of the orchestra. Pavol Šianský and Jozef Král, the other military bandmasters, successfully continued in the trend established by Peter Zaoral.

The show with majorettes variegate the performances of the orchestra. Since the 90s, it was The Majorette and Dancing Group at the Municipal Magistrate in Podbrezová.

After its break-up, the orchestra started a successful cooperation with the majorettes of the Culture House in Karviná led by Martina Jančíková. They have taken part in several foreign festivals along with the Podbrezová brass band.

The interest of domestic and European musical communities proves the popularity of the Brass band of Železiarne Podbrezová. The pieces of evidence are its performances at eurofestivals, as well as the inclusion of the Brass band of Železiarne Podbrezová to the highest, golden zone, at the national festival of big brass orchestras at Pádívého Trenčín in 2003.



The Brass Band of ŽP was awarded by the Slovak musical fund with THE PRIZE OF KAROL PÁDIVÝ for its musical performance and praise of its credits. The prize was received by the bandmaster Peter Zaoral in Bratislava, in the first October days of 1993.

In 1996, the Brass Band of Železiarne Podbrezová was included to THE SILVER ZONE at Pádívého Trenčín.

The second place at Eurofestival in German Bösel, the inclusion to THE GOLDEN ZONE at Pádívého Trenčín in 1998, 2000, 2003, and 2005 belong among the top positions of the band.

In 2003, the orchestra was awarded with the exceptional award – The Homage of the National Enlightenment Centre - THE MEDAL OF DANIEL GABRIEL LICHARD.

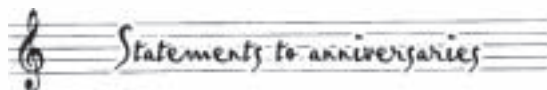


In 2005, the orchestra was included to THE SILVER ZONE at the 12th international competition of big brass orchestras, Ostrava 2005.



GALLERY OF BANDMASTERS

Tomáš Hromada (1838)
 Antonín Kříž z Moravy (1892-1918)
 p. Chvapil (1918-1922)
 Karol Hübner (1922-23)
 Václav Prokop (1923-1946)
 Vladimír Štubňa (1946-1950)
 Ľudovít Adamčík (1950-1964)
 Alojz Šíkula (1964-1972)
 Alfréd Šebesta (1972-1980)
 Imrich Gažovič (1980-1983)
 Peter Zaoral (1983-1997)
 Pavol Šianský (1997-2002)
 Pavol Machajdík (2003)
 Jozef Král' (od 2003)



The bandmaster Peter Zaoral, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary: „I arrived to Podbrezová with great plans and ideas. I wanted to continue in achievements of the band in the 50s. Exacting work on the modernization of the obsolete and incomplete archive and in the area of rejuvenation and

completing of the orchestra was expected to do. With review of my ten-year-activity, I want mainly to express my respect and thanks to each member of the band.“



The bandmaster Pavel Šianský, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary: „We do not only want to take, we also want to give. To give people what their ancestors expected one hundred and sixty years ago, when they established this brass band. I believe that we will achieve that by mutual effort to keep and improve the orchestra. I would like to thank all of you who support us, our sponsors, listeners, and, of course, the members of the brass band. We would miss something nice without you all.“



The bandmaster Jozef Král', on the occasion of the 170th anniversary: „On this festive occasion, I would like to emphasize the approach of the management of the company Železiarne Podbrezová, who holds a protective hand over the brass band and supports the tradition, which came into existence here. No one can take us the priority of the oldest brass band in Slovakia. The continually increasing quality of the orchestra also contributes to that. The managing board of brass bands of Slovakia evaluates us – as the oldest brass band – the exceptional orchestra, very rarely occurring in Slovakia.“



The band manager Jozef Bánik, on the occasion of the 170th anniversary: „The brass band of Podbrezová has specific, unique, round sound, which has interested composers. Adam Hudec and Miloslav Hlaváček have made several compositions for the band. When they harmonize, the listeners feel very pleased. The band, as the only band in the region, cares for the education of young musicians. Parents find out that in the Podbrezová brass

band their child can require not only musical education, but they also can behave toward the people in the team, they are able to harmonize with their partners not only by a tone, but also by their behaviour, and that will affect the young person's personality. Top bandmasters have always worked in Podbrezová. The musicians who have grown up under their management transfer the acquired knowledge in neighbouring brass bands too.

We try to keep up with the times. We have a digitalized archive of notes, the information on performance is sent to the members of the orchestra electronically. The web sites of the brass band are



daily updated. They contain over 1700 pictures, which often have historic value, articles and information on the brass band and its members. On the occasion of the 170th anniversary, we can note that the conditions provided by the parent company are used efficiently. Our ardent people are supposed to proudly carry the baton of our ancestors."

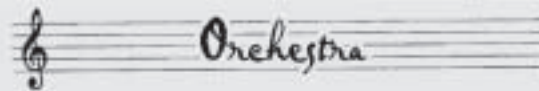


The chairman of the club Jozef Turis on the occasion of the 170th anniversary:

„During 1838 – 2008, various events, which changed the life of our nation – the monarchy, two wars, revolutions, various systems, have happened on our territory. But the event, which we are celebrating today in the cultural area, is particularly pleasant and precious for us. After all, 170 years of the continual club life – this fact simply can not be overlooked.

These are experienced events and the experience is created by the life stories of the people, who have endeavoured, so that brass music in Horehronie, specifically in Hronec and Podbrezová, could perform and exist. The outstanding person who helped the most should be reminded. It is the priest of Hronec, Mr. Tomáš Hromada, who was the founder of brass music in Slovakia. But it was not only the music, but also general cultural life, mainly here, in Horehronie.

We would like to thank our sponsor – Železiarne Podbrezová, a.s., as well as all members of the Brass band of Železiarne Podbrezová for the fact that we can celebrate our anniversary.



<i>bandmaster</i>	Jozef Kráľ
<i>flute</i>	Ingrid Dudová, Barborka Simanová,
<i>clarinet 1B</i>	Nikola Luptáková, Lucia Slosiarová
<i>clarinet 2B</i>	Jozef Bánik, Ema Ivanová
<i>clarinet 3B</i>	Simona Babicová, Jana Csordášová
<i>flugelhorn 1</i>	Róbert Hlaváčik, Matej Krella
<i>flugelhorn 2</i>	Vojtech Kotrán
<i>tenor</i>	Matúš Melicherčík, Samuel Majer, Matej Hlásnik
<i>baritone</i>	Marián Medveď, Marián Rafaj
<i>trumpet 1B</i>	Jaroslav Dilský, Lukáš Považan, Michal Mesiar
<i>trumpet 2B</i>	Miroslav Dobák, Peter Havaš
<i>trumpet 3B</i>	Marek Horský
<i>French horn 1</i>	Svetozár Semančík
<i>French horn 2</i>	Jakub Adamek
<i>French horn 3</i>	Jozef Weiss
<i>French horn 4</i>	Ľubomír Benedik
<i>trumpet 3 ES</i>	Roman Mucha
<i>trumpet 4 ES</i>	Pavol Čunderlík
<i>trombone 1</i>	Václav Foldyna
<i>trombone 2</i>	Jozef Schnierer
<i>trombone 3</i>	Ján Bartánus
<i>tuba F</i>	Dušan Gonda, Patrik Švantner
<i>tuba B</i>	Matej Pecník, Jozef Turis Sr., Jozef Turis Jr.
<i>percussion instruments</i>	Ivan Kaša, Marian Kučera, Jaroslav Žilík, Dagmar Štellerová, Miroslav Lehoczky

The present forty-member band consists of pupil of primary and secondary schools, present and former employees of the joint-stock company Železiarne Podbrezová. The oldest members who have devoted the orchestra more than 20 years are: Jozef Turis Sr., Matej Pecnik, Matúš Melicherčík, Miroslav Lehoczký, Vojtech Kotrán, Peter Gregor, Ing. Jozef Turis Jr., Ing. Jozef Bánik, Havaš Peter, Ivan Kaša, Ing. Jozef Weiss, Ľubomír Benedik.



The youngest generation with solo players Nikola Luptáková, Ema Ivanová, Lucia Švantnerová, and Jakub Adamek represents the antipole to the older generation.

Since the 90s of the 20th century, the Podbrezová brass band has been a member of the Association of Slovakia brass bands, in which 140 professional and amateur clubs are united, and a member of the International organization for development of brass bands (CIZM), which unites 40, 000 clubs, which represents 1,5 million of musicians established in this association.

The priority task of CIZM and the Association of Slovakia brass bands is to educate young talents. At the invitation of ZDHS, six young players of the Podbrezová band - Nikola Luptáková, Jakub Adamek, Ema Ivanová, Barborka Simanová and Matej Hlásnik, have taken part in three years of the workshop in Omšenie near

Trenčianske Teplice.



- **Vienna, Austria (1993, 1999, 2008)**
- **Zlín, Czech Republic (1994)**
- **Tótkomlos, Hungary (1994)**
- **Pádívého Trenčín (1996, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005)**
- **Jastrzebie-Zdroj, Poland (1997)**
- **Bösel, Germany (1997, 1999, 2001)**
- **VII. year of Podtatranský festival of brass bands SVIT-TATRY (1998)**
- **Žarnovica festival of brass bands (2001)**
- **Swiecie, Poland (2003)**
- **13th international festival of brass bands "Golden lyre", Rybnik, Poland (2004)**
- **Eurofestival in Ostrava (2004)**
- **Plonsk – Poland (2005)**
- **12th year of International competition of big brass orchestras, Ostrava (2005)**
- **5th year of the festival Hradská muzika, Modrý Kameň (2006)**
- **13th International festival of brass orchestras and folk groups, Zlín (2006)**
- **400th anniversary of the promotion of Žďár to a town (2007)**
- **4th Miedzynarodowe spotkanie orkiestr detych Zambrow, Poland (2007)**
- **24th national festival of brass bands „FEDO 2008“ Štětí, CR**
- **29th musical celebrations of Austria in Vienna (2008)**



- *Cultural summer Bojnice (1993)*
- *Christmas concerts (1993 - 2006)*
- *Cultural summer Sliač (1994)*
- *Musical summer Vitipeno (Sterzing) in Italy (1995)*
- *Žarnovica, cultural summer Revište (2000)*
- *International engineering fair, Nitra (2000)*
- *Concert with the Brass orchestra Halberstadt (2003)*
- *Special concert in DK ŽP a.s., SZ MB co-stared (2004)*
- *Žďár nad Sázavou (2005)*
- *International engineering fair Brno (2006)*
- *Telč, Žďár nad Sázavou (2006)*
- *Pribina celebrations in Nitra (2006)*
- *Nové Město na Moravě (2007)*



Vydavateľ: Železiarne Podbrezová a.s. Grafická úprava: Odbor informácií a propagácie ŽP a.s.
Texty: V. Kúkolová. Foto: archív Hutníckeho múzea ŽP a. s. Kontakt: www.zelpo.sk/dh/dychovka.nsf





170th anniversary The brass band

