



Slovak Intangible Cultural
Heritage Centre

REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SLOVAKIA





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Heritage Centre



WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT
OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

The representative list is a listing of remarkable elements of the intangible cultural heritage of Slovakia. Creating the *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia* represents the fundamental step in compiling the *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*.

The inclusion in the representative list is an acknowledgement of exceptional elements and practices accepted by societies and individuals which survive in accord with the universally observed human rights principles, as well as the principles of equality, support, and mutual respect among cultural communities. These elements are in keeping with the environment and historical conditions of the communities and provide them with the sense of continuity and identity, thus supporting cultural diversity and creativity.

In December 2011 the ceremonial announcement of the elements included in the *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia* took place at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic. The event was organized by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic as a guarantor, and Slovak Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre as the organizer of the entire process of compiling the list.

In 2011, 5 elements were included in the Slovak list.



The Radvaň Fair (Radvanský jarmok)

The Radvaň Fair cultivates the tradition dating from the 17th century. It originated in 1655 in Radvaň, which was then the centre of crafts. Historians claim that the fair at Radvaň originated on the basis of the privilege to organize pilgrimages which was granted to the Catholic church in Radvaň. Many people participating in the pilgrimages became the target of the craftsmen of Radvaň who took the opportunity to sell them their produce. Having started as a traditional barter business between the town and the country, the fair later developed into a venue from which wider areas began to be supplied with agricultural produce, handiwork and industrial products. People from the neighbouring areas used to come to the fair to buy some products and find entertainment.

The fair was of great significance mainly in the 19th century when producers of cloth and blueprint; boot makers, hatters, comb makers, gunpowder producers, traditional peasants' leather shoe makers, or artisans making wood, straw or wicker products ranked among the most respected representatives of trade. Special position was held by ginger bread makers. A specific custom had developed of young single men's buying cooking spoons on the last day of the fair, which they then used to hit young girls and women on their bottoms. This tradition has been preserved until today and has extended to all fair days.



Mall
1944
Unknown author
Central – Slovakian Museum
Banská Bystrica





Potter at the Radvaň Fair
2010
Vladimír Veverka
Author's archive



“Aušus” services of Špania dolina miners

(Aušusnícke služby špaňodolinských baníkov)

The “Aušus” services of Špania dolina miners are represented by ritual practices dating from 15th century. Since then they have been continually handed down from generation to generation. They include miners’ feast, miners’ mass, miners’ wedding and miners’ funeral. Before 1787 miners also served in miners’ militia.

Miners, as free citizens represented a specific group of inhabitants of medieval Europe. They were quite educated, they were allowed to move about freely and they did not pay taxes. This allowed for the origin of multinational communities in all ore mining regions of Europe. Miners’ brotherhoods were established everywhere. Apart from ceremonial rituals they also provided miners with social care. The oldest written document of the Miners’ Brotherhood in Špania Dolina dates from 1 August 1574. The seal of the Miners’ Brotherhood dates from 1683.

Miner’s Mass
1944
Unknown author
Archive „Our Museum
of Copper“
Špania Dolina

„Aušus“ service – Mass
2010
Unknown author
Archive „Our Museum
of Copper“ Špania Dolina



Traditional Manual Bell Ringing and the Bell Founders' Tradition in Slovakia

(Tradičné ručné zvonenie a funkcia zvonárov na Slovensku)

Bells, as both musical instruments and ritual objects, have been used in several cultures of the world as the means of summoning people to religious services, announcing the time, deaths, arrivals of honorary visitors, warnings before danger, fires or floods, the means of preventing storms and gales and announcing lots of other occurrences related to people's lives since the times unknown.

Traditional manual ringing and the bell founder's post in Slovakia can be defined as traditional and best techniques of making bells ring. Bells and traditional manual ringing, which is inseparable from the bell founder's job, have been a significant part of the identity, culture and historical tradition in our territory since the most ancient period of our national history until today. The tradition is definitely confirmed by numerous evidence, documents and references in material and written historical sources.





**Greek – Catholic Church
in Krajná Polana**
(Svidník district)
Electrified bells
2009
Juraj Gembický
Author's archive

**The bell ringing in the
st. Elizabeth's Cathedral
in Košice**
2007
Juraj Gembický
Author's archive



Viliam Záborský and Karol
L. Zachar during fujara
makers's competition
in Detva
1975
Tibor Szabo
Archive of Slovak Intangible
Heritage Centre

Fujara – the musical instrument and its music

(Fujara – hudobný nástroj a jeho hudba)

Fujara is an exceptionally long pipe with three touch holes which is typical of Slovakia, specifically central Slovakia.

Fujara was included in the List of Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2005 (Today's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity).

The sources about the history of 'fujara' consist predominantly of written evidence. The oldest use of the word 'fujara' which could be considered as the first reference to 'fujara' as it is known today, is to be found in Bruk's manuscript miscellany dating from the 1780s. From the beginning of the 19th century the word 'fujara' began to be used more frequently as an unambiguous term for naming the present-day's instrument.

'Fujara' has a more specific musical repertoire than any other musical instrument. This is due to its role in the life of shepherds, its relation to the shepherds' and highwaymen's element, the musical and technical properties of the instrument, as well as due to its onomatopoeic use of tones in high positions. Every single musical instrument is the reflection of the unique properties of its maker and performer.

Three different types of decorations of fujara's „head“.
Made by Ján Sanitrár from Kováčová – Trebuľa 1976
Archive of Slovak Intangible Heritage Centre

Boy with fujara from Slatinské Lazy
—
Karol Plicka
Archive of Pro Musica, o.z.





**Whistle player in chalet
in Terchová – Adam
Laurenčík Patrnčík
about 1950**
Unknown author
Local Cultural Centre's
archive in Terchová

Music of Terchová (Terchovská muzika)

The Music of Terchová is an orally cultivated musical culture of the community of Terchová which is specific for its original collective vocal-instrumental performance. The phenomenon of the Music of Terchová does not apply only to the typical instrumental body with a little two-string bass, but also to the entire relevant musical tradition. It is only complete when complemented with singing repertoire, folk dance known as 'terchovská krútená' or 'ardáš' (a typical rotating dance) with its own musical style and performers by whom it is perceived as a key part of their cultural identity and a product of their spiritual equipment.

The first direct evidence of the existence of the Music of Terchová dates from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, when a 3-member band of Terchová called „Kvočkovská muzika“ was active in the settlement of Kvočkovia. As early as 1935 Franc Balát's „Ištvanianska muzika“ music of Terchová had been recorded both in word and in picture in director Martin Frič's film Jánošík. Lots of recordings of the Music of Terchová have been preserved on different media, including sheet music collections.



**Three members bend from
Terchová. Mascians (from
the left): Vavrín Bučkuliak,
Ján Lacek, Štefan Lacek
1962**
Tibor Szabo
Archive of Slovak Intangible
Cultural Heritage Centre

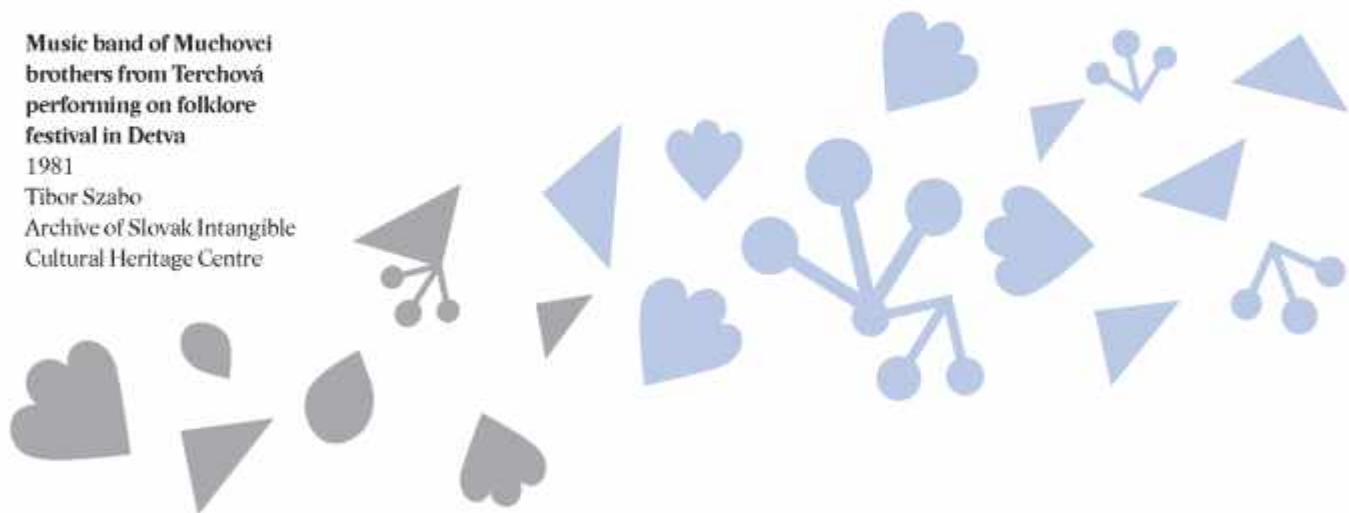


Music band of Muchovec
brothers from Terchová
performing on folklore
festival in Detva

1981

Tibor Szabo

Archive of Slovak Intangible
Cultural Heritage Centre



SLUK – Slovak State Traditional Dance Company



The Slovak State Traditional Dance Company has been a professional artistic ensemble involved in the sphere of artistic processing and performing of folklore in Slovakia for 63 years. In its creative activities SLUK finds inspiration in authentic Slovak popular art which is being processed into highly successful shows of superior quality. Currently, 45 top professional artists from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Holland are engaged in the dance ensemble, folk music and SLUK's singers' group.

The creative activities of the recent years have been marked by the effort to find a new face and a new shape for the SLUK of the third millennium. The ambition of the current management is to build SLUK as:

- A professional representative artistic ensemble combining the traditional and innovative approaches and new creative artistic projects mingling with new artistic genres;
- An art scene offering opportunities to young artists, university students, as well as professionals, to realize their projects, to stage co-productions, cross-genre and multicultural events, artistic programmes, workshops, seminars and conferences;
- A significant cultural and social institution of great impact on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity; upbringing and educating children, young people and adults in the sphere of the traditional popular culture; international cooperation in the sphere of safeguarding, promoting and performing the traditional popular culture, thus making it accessible.

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Slovak Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre is a professional workplace at SLUK, the task of which is to implement the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the government's Concept of Cultivating the Traditional Folk Culture. Its activities concentrate on documenting, storing, processing, filing and making the elements of the traditional popular culture generally available and accessible. The centre bears the main responsibility for compiling the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia and the Representative List of Programmes, Projects, and Activities which best reflect the convention for the intangible cultural heritage.

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