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If you are looking for a supplier in the Czech Republic, Czech Trade Promotion Agency will be delighted to assist you in order to find new manufacturing/service partners, professional organisations and interest groups.

The goal of this brochure is to inform interested foreigners about the field of musical instruments production in the Czech Republic. Take the companies listed in this brochure as a sample listing, which will help you to formulate a better picture of the specific field. If you are interested in more information on Czech companies, please contact: supplier@czechtrade.cz
Foreign companies contact CzechTrade when looking for new reliable partners in the Czech Republic. CzechTrade foreign office network together with its sourcing team will identify potential suppliers based on your requirements:

- initial consultation by phone/email/in person
- provision of a basic overview of a special sector
- access to an entire supplier database through the National Business Opportunities website and a parallel dedicated supplier search
- compilation of a contact list of companies interested in cooperation
- eventual facilitation of meetings with Czech companies

**Other services:**

- doing business in the Czech Republic guide
- access to verified Czech suppliers
- assistance with language support
- presentation of Czech companies at foreign trade shows
- preparation of business missions to the Czech Republic

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

CzechTrade has an extensive network of foreign offices in 50 countries on five continents. With their scope of activities, the foreign network offices cover Europe from Scandinavia to the Balkans, Eastern Europe and the CIS, Africa from Sub-Saharan Africa to South Africa, major Asian regions, the American continents from Canada to Latin America, and Australia.

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The Association of Musical Instruments Makers of the Czech Republic brings together legal entities and natural persons that manufacture musical instruments, their components and accessories.

- The aim of the association is to protect, support and achieve the common interests of its members in terms of economic and business plans, including technical and professional objectives.
- The association fosters a sense of shared purpose and also a general awareness of the field’s role in culture.
- The association represents and defends the common interests of its members against state authorities and offices, foreign associations and organisations.

The association as a member of CAFIM (Confederation of the European Music Industries) supports international cooperation within the European Union.

Association of Musical Instruments Makers of the Czech Republic
E-mail: info@avhn.cz
Phone: +420 603 907 416
www.avhn.cz
The manufacturing of musical instruments has a long tradition in the Czech Republic. Czech musical instruments are internationally renowned for their quality, and most of the manufacturers sell them throughout the whole world. Bowed and wind instruments, for example, have been made here since the beginning of the 17th century. Wind, brass and percussion are built along with stringed instruments here. Czech grand pianos and upright pianos are well known, and accordions, piano accordions and cimbaloms are included in the manufacturing range, too. The best materials are used in the production of instruments, and manufacturers often cooperate with top Czech and international musical artists. The quality can be attributed to precise craftsmanship that is often combined with cutting-edge technologies.

Besides instruments, a large number of companies manufacture accessories, i.e. cases for musical instruments, strings, plectrums, drumsticks, etc.

**EXPORT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC (IN EUR THS.)**

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, HS2: 92 Musical instruments, parts, components and accessories
THE LEGENDARY CZECH MANUFACTURER

Václav František Červený, the founder of a metal musical instrument manufacturer in Hradec Králové, is a significant figure in the Czech music industry. His success was founded not only on the production of classical musical instruments but also on the invention of new ones. In 1844, he patented a military trumpet called the “cornon”. It was soon followed by contra-bass B and C tubas, glyceride, phonicon or baroxyton. In total, 60 of his inventions were patented - later ones include, for example, the hunting horn, the military trombone and the bombardon.

V. F. Červený’s company soon started to focus on international markets. In St. Louis, USA, he also established his own factory. His products received 15 awards at industrial and international exhibitions in, among other places, New York, Munich, Paris or Vienna. V. F. Červený knew the importance of such events, so he personally presented his products at most of them. He usually combined these trips with visits to other countries and their local musical instrument factories to obtain new information from the field. Soon, brass instruments from Hradec Králové became famous all over the world. Not only Austrian military bands, but also military bands from Russia, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Japan fell in love with them. In 1878, the company exported 1,641 instruments to Russia. Today, the company is known as AMATI - Denak, and it builds on the legacy of V. F. Červený. The company employs 200 people and is one of the largest musical instrument factories in Central Europe.
EXPORT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2018 - TOP COUNTRIES

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, HS2: 92 Musical instruments, parts, components and accessories
EXPORT OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC BY GROUPS IN 2018

- Grand pianos and upright pianos, stringed instruments with keyboards: 9%
- Musical instrument components, metronomes, tuners: 13%
- Other stringed musical instruments (e.g. guitars, violins, harps): 10%
- Electrically amplified musical instruments: 26%
- Wind musical instruments (e.g. keyboard pipe organs): 39%
- Percussion musical instruments: 1%
- Music boxes, orchestrions, barrel organs, artificial songbirds: 2%

Source: The Czech Statistical Office, HS2: 92 Musical instruments, parts, components and accessories
CZECH CHRISTMAS MASS IS MORE THAN 220 YEARS OLD

It has been more than 220 years since its composition and first public performance, which conquered the world. In his own time, Jakub Jan Ryba’s piece was misunderstood. But today, orchestras perform it in its original Czech version in Western Europe, the USA, Australia and even Japan.

BUILDING AN INDEPENDENT CZECH MUSICAL CULTURE

Several Czech composers helped to raise the standard of Czech and international opera and symphonic repertoires in the past. Their musical creations became pillars of Czech musical and dramatic production.

Bedřich Smetana is definitely one of the most celebrated Czech composers. He received the highest praise for his opera “The Bartered Bride”, which premiered at the Prague Provisional Theatre in 1866. In “The Bartered Bride”, Smetana laid the foundations for modern Czech opera that shortly spread to the whole world and became a permanent part of the international operatic repertoire. It was predominantly popular in German-speaking countries, but it also found admirers in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 1909, it was premiered at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, USA. Despite the total deafness he had suffered during his life, Smetana managed to compose other masterpieces, e.g. “The Kiss”, “The Secret” and “The Devil’s Wall” (operas), two string quartets, “Dreams” and “Czech Dances” (piano cycles), and a number of choral pieces. He also finished his cycle of symphonic poems “My Country”, which is one of the most significant works in the Czech symphonic repertoire. His legacy as a composer of operatic, symphonic, choral and chamber pieces has been, and still is, regarded as a treasure of Czech national music.

Antonín Dvořák’s international reputation was established by his “Slavonic Dances”. But the core of his musical work is represented by symphonies, totalling nine altogether. He also composed eleven operas, out of which “Rusalka”, “Jakobín” and “The Devil and Kate” are fixtures of international opera stages up until today. He was very successful as a composer and conductor, especially in England. The premiere of his work “Te Deum” was at Carnegie Hall in New York. When Neil Armstrong was taking a small step for a man but a giant leap for mankind on the Moon, he had Dvořák’s “New World Symphony” played.
The compositions of Leoš Janáček are among the most significant musical works of the 20th century. He was deeply fascinated by folk songs, dancing and folklore, and this interest is strongly reflected in his work. The premiere of Janáček’s “Her Stepdaughter” (Jenůfa) in Vienna in 1918 opened up doors to the world. Soon after, it was also staged in Berlin, Germany and New York, USA. “Katya Kabanova”, “The Cunning Little Vixen”, “The Makropoulos Affair” and “From the House of the Dead” represent his operatic masterpieces. After years of searching, Janáček found his own original musical language that appeals to audiences from literally all over the world.

In 1930s Bohuslav Martinů was a world-famous composer whose music was played by orchestras worldwide. His fundamental and lasting contribution to music is mainly represented by his symphonic and operatic works. Upon the request of leading European and American artists of his time, he composed more than 400 pieces in all genres of instrumental and vocal music. “The Comedy on the Bridge”, which was performed all over the world and received the award for “Best New Opera” in New York, is one of his most significant pieces.

**CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Over its 25-year existence, it has become one of the most popular orchestras in Europe. It is renowned for its versatility, which is evident in the broad programme ranging from classical music concerts through contemporary genres, film scores, jazz or musicals. Successful tours have taken place not only in European countries but also in Japan, Australia, China, Canada, Mexico and many other countries. The orchestra has a long-standing cooperation with Andrea Bocelli, Rolando Villazón, José Carreras, Jonas Kaufmann and Piotr Beczala. The orchestra has collaborated with some of the most important pop artists, such as Sting, George Michael (the orchestra accompanied him on his tour), Natalie Cole, Dianne Reeves, Angélique Kidjo, Denise Donatelli, Ute Lemper, and great instrumentalists, such as James Morrison, Branford and Wynton Marsalis, Bobby Shew, Randy Brecker, Eric Marienthal, Joe Lovano, John Abercrombie and many more.

**PRAGUE SPRING INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL**

In 1946, the very first annual festival of classical music to be held in Prague, known as The Prague Spring, took place. The festival was founded by the Czech conductor Rafael Kubelík, and its tradition lasts until today. Leonard Bernstein made his first overseas debut at The Prague Spring in 1946. The festival has not lost its reputation over all these years; in 2018, prestigious ensembles, such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich or Budapest Festival Orchestra have performed here. These were not the only stars of the festival in 2018. There were also the conductors John Eliot Gardiner and Daniel Gatti, the mezzo-soprano Petra Lang, the baritone Matthias Goerne, the pianist Daniil Trifonov. The 74th Prague Spring in 2019 will confirm its position among the longest running festivals in the world.
GRAND PIANOS AND UPRIGHT PIANOS
As the manufacturer of grand pianos and upright pianos, the family company PETROF is the most famous export brand of Czech musical instruments. The first concert grand piano was manufactured back in 1864, and their production has been passed from generation to generation ever since. Most work is done by hand, and one instrument is composed of up to seven thousand components. Not only jazz legends, such as Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald or Duke Ellington played the PETROF piano, but it also accompanied famous singers, such as Luciano Pavarotti and José Carreras during their concerts in Prague.

DID YOU KNOW?
In Prague, you can still find the grand piano that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played during his first visit in 1787. The piano was made one hundred years earlier, and its manufacturer is unknown. At present, it is located in the building of the National Museum - Czech Museum of Music. It underwent restoration so it could be played again and the beauty of its sound could be demonstrated at special events.

In the same museum, you can also find Hába’s quarter-tone piano, which was built in 1923, i.e. at the time of much avant-garde musical experimentation. This piano was comprised of two identical piano bodies stacked one on the other and three manuals. The centre manual has the standard tuning while the outer manuals are tuned a quarteitone flat. Alois Hába created his own theory of quarter-tone music that aroused great interest at musical exhibitions in Geneva and Frankfurt. Many concerts were held in Prague, Paris, Salzburg, Vienna, Cairo or Siena.
EXPORT OF PIANOS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC
BY COUNTRIES (2018)

- Germany: 21%
- China: 21%
- Russian Federation: 8%
- Hong Kong: 4%
- The United States: 4%
- Japan: 4%
- The United Kingdom: 4%
- France: 3%
- Australia: 3%
- Canada: 3%
- Others: 9%

Source: The Czech Statistical Office
PETROF – PIANOS SINCE 1864

PETROF is a traditional, and currently the largest manufacturer of grand pianos and upright pianos in Europe. It was founded by Antonín Petrof in Hradec Králové in 1864. Over 35 years with the support of his family, he managed to establish a prosperous factory exporting grand pianos and upright pianos worldwide. His success was built on honest hand work, careful selection of materials, skilled craftsmen and innovations. Over 155 years of the company’s existence, many things have changed, but the values that helped PETROF to become one of the leading world manufacturers are adhered to in the company to this day.

PETROF pianos are still made in the same place, i.e. in the factory in Hradec Králové, the Czech Republic. From here, the instruments are exported to more than 65 countries around the whole world. Ennio Morricone, Peter Dvorský and Paul McCartney are some of the proud owners of these grand pianos. More than 630,000 instruments, which have found their homes in many institutions, including the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, La Scala in Milan, Hilton Hotels, the Sydney Opera House and many more, have been manufactured by this company until the present day.

A significant portion (75 %) of the manufacture of the piano is done by hand. The craftsmanship and expertise of master builders is irreplaceable in most of the manufacturing processes. This is one of the essential ingredients that distinguish PETROF grand pianos and upright pianos with their unmistakeable, round romantic tone.

Precision NC machines are the most modern technologies used and only in parts of the process where it is necessary to be very precise and where pure hand manufacturing brings no advantages.

Before manufacturing starts, materials must be carefully selected, so specialists at PETROF travel Europe and personally select materials that will meet their high standards. The selection of first-class materials affects the life of instruments as well as the resulting colour of the tone. The basic material for manufacturing of grand pianos and upright pianos is high-quality and carefully selected wood. It is material for the heart of the instrument, i.e. the soundboard, as well as of individual structural elements and parts. It also influences the appearance of instruments, so its selection is essential and particular attention is paid to it. For the company, it is important to use materials of solely European origin. For this reason, each new instrument is certified with European Excellence Musical Instruments (EEX).

PETROF,

www.petrof.com
DETOA was established in 1908. At first, it manufactured wooden beads, buttons and other fine-turned parts. After 1945, upright-piano actions and later grand-piano actions and keyboards were made. All production processes take place directly in the company headquarters. No sub-contractors are used. Therefore, 100% quality inspection is ensured. Almost 85% of all products are exported, mainly to EU countries and Japan. Products under their own DETOA and TOFA brands represent approx. 35% of their turnover, and 65% is custom manufacturing.

DETOA grand-piano and upright-piano actions are high-quality products, suitable for all grand piano and upright piano models thanks to the broad versions of their different base types and modifications. The material used for DETOA actions precisely meets the requirements of piano manufacturers and ensures ease of installation and adjustment, high durability, reliability and long life. The aluminium slats used provide high mechanical stability. The experts agree that instruments with DETOA actions show perfect reactions in the whole range, keystroke dynamics, rate of repetitions and required reaction at different keystroke intensity. The instruments with DETOA actions, with their pleasant, elegant and clearly defined performance, satisfy even the most discerning piano players. Apart from upright-piano and grand-piano actions the company is currently the biggest and oldest manufacturer of wooden toys, components for parlour games, and wooden beads in the Czech Republic.

**ACCORDIONS**

In 20th century heligonka created by a Czech accordions manufacturer Antonín Hlaváček became well-known all over the world. This is a special kind of accordion with a beaded bass part called Heligon Basses. At present HARMONIKAS company manufactures on the historical grounds of Hlaváček factory.

**HAND-MADE ACCORDIONS**

DELICIA is a purely Czech manufacturer of top-quality piano and button accordions and heligonkas under the brands DELICIA, SONOREX and HLAVÁČEK with a tradition of almost 100 years. The company emphasises manual craftsmanship and uses materials of the highest European quality. The company ranks among the top international manufacturers, exporting accordions to the whole world (95% of their production is exported). The instruments may be found in Germany, Holland, Italy, France, Belgium, Denmark, South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, England and Ireland. Their customers are world-renowned professional and concert players, conservatories and musical schools. Furthermore, the company services all its brands of accordions and heligonkas and provides all tuning types, manufacturing of bellows and professional restoration repairs of historical accordions. DELICIA accordions, www.delicia.cz

**SOUNDS FOR ACCORDIONS**

HARMONIKAS continues its century-long tradition in the production of harmonicas, accordions and reeds in the Czech Republic. Since 1999, a fundamental change in the reed production concept has taken place, representing the beginning of sound production for the best accordions and harmonicas as well. With the latest know-how concerning precision-cutting technologies, profile grinding, electro-discharge wire machining, semi-automatic tuning and, above all, with the expertise of the best staff, the company is able to manufacture reeds for all accordions and harmonicas. Skilled workers, first-rate technical equipment, as well as the latest technology, are a guarantee of high-quality reeds. 95% of their products are exported all over the world, from Europe through North and South Americas, to Asia and Russia. HARMONIKAS is the largest manufacturer of reeds in the world. HARMONIKAS, www.harmonikas.cz/en
ORGANS
A Czech organ building has a long tradition starting in 19th century. At present the Czech companies deal with development, construction and manufacturing of organs equipment and parts, repairing and reconstructions but also consultancy and expertises.

We can name e.g. factories: Kánský-Brachtl, ORGANA, Varhany (Organ) Krnov – Vaclav Smolka.

KÁNSKÝ-BRACHTL ORGAN-BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Kánský and Brachtl organ-building workshop was established in April of 1995. At the beginning of its operation, its activity was focused on the construction and reconstruction of instruments with electric tracker action. A contract for the faithful restoration of the large three-manual organ in the St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague (1999 - 2001) was a turning point in the company’s development. To the present day, the workshop has been highly respected in the field of organ restoration for their successful work, and it has also been entrusted with other demanding restoration and reconstruction contracts.

A contract for the construction of a two-manual organ for St. Anthony’s Church in Hradec Králové represented another significant job. On this occasion, the workshop abandoned the unsophisticated system with the electric tracker action and returned to the long established tradition of mechanical tracker action. Immediately after its construction, the instrument was warmly received by experts. The company successfully builds modern mechanical instruments for modern premises: for example, the organ in the Trappist Monastery in Nový Dvůr u Teplé in cooperation with the respected John Pawson Architects Office in London (2007); the organ in the Church of the Virgin Mary in Strašnice in Prague (2008); and the construction of a new two-manual instrument for the Trappist Monastery in Sept-Fons in France, once again in cooperation with the John Pawson Architects Office (2010). The workshop also builds exact replicas of 17th and 18th century organs. These replicas imitate the materials, manual processing, construction and method of intonation with historical tuning. The focus is on the craftsmanship of fine instruments to ensure that their designs achieve ideal acoustics. The workshop has gained significant experience in restoration of historical instruments. In 2011, the organ-building workshop completed, together with the German company Eule Orgelbau, the exacting restoration of the organ constructed in 1780 in St. Salvator’s Church in Prague.

STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

The manufacturing of stringed instruments builds on the tradition of manufacturing of bowed instruments started in the town of Luby, a tradition that dates back to the 16th century. Czech companies in the field offer a wide range of guitars, violins, violas, violoncellos, double basses, mandolins, lutes, banjos and resonator guitars.

BOWED INSTRUMENTS

TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURER OF CZECH STRING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Strunal Schönbach, known also as the former Cremona brand, is a traditional producer of string musical instruments, whose craftsmanship dates back more than three centuries. The factory is located in the picturesque town of Luby (originally called Schönbach) in the western part of the Czech Republic, but its reputation goes far beyond the borders. Strunal Schönbach has been offering traditional hand-made string instruments from the best resonance wood for many decades. Its production consists of violins, violas, violoncellos, double basses and classical guitars. Professional musicians regularly test and play the instruments, making sure they satisfy all of the customers’ needs - from beginners and intermediate students, to artists on a professional level. Thanks to their careful approach, these instruments are of premium quality and sound. Strunal Schönbach have collected several honours for quality in numerous tonal competitions, including a Silver Medal for Sound during the BassEurope 2016 Congress in Prague.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Czech Republic, the tradition of stringed instrument manufacturing dates back to 16th century. The Czech lands were the centre of violin-making in the very earliest years of this craft. There were workshops and related occupations of European significance. The main centres were the town of Luby (originally Schönbach) near Cheb, the Prague violin-making school and the Krkonoše violin-making school.

Pavel Šporcl, a Czech solo violinist, performed in the famous Carnegie Hall in New York in 2016. With the New England Symphonic Ensemble led by Giuseppe Lanzetta, an Italian conductor, he played a challenging violin concerto by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rastislav Žumár was born in Martin, Slovakia in 1983 and grew up in a musical environment in Prague, the Czech Republic. After graduating from the traditional lutherie school of the Czech Republic in 2003, he began to build his first instruments in Florence, Italy under the supervision of the famous luthier John Terry. By manufacturing high-quality instruments, he quickly established his reputation and earned himself an entry in the "Encyclopaedia of violin makers in Italy" by Gualtiero Nicolini, published in 2008.

In 2009, he started his own workshop in Prague and continued to successfully build new instruments inspired by the classic designs from Tuscan, Cremonese and Venetian schools. Over the years, more than 40 instruments have passed through his hands that are today played by artists in the USA, Italy, Japan, Denmark, Spain, Taiwan, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Rastislav Žumár,
www.rastidamartin.com

The winner of the 2017 Prague Spring International Music Competition, Olga Šroubková, won this competition with an instrument manufactured by Rasti da Martin.
AKORD KVINT manufactures exceptional school, student, concert and master violins, violas and cellos. The company was established in Luby in 1991. Their luthiers produce instruments in five quality levels. All of them are available in all sizes and designed after the models Stradivari and Guarneri. All materials, parts and accessories are supplied by the most respectable companies from Germany, Austria and France. Besides the materials, their own spirit varnishes, which are based on natural components, along with the craftsmanship of their master luthiers are the key to the success of AKORD KVINT. Master and concert instruments are subject to a tone test, which is conducted by a panel of professors from the Prague Music Conservatory, members of the Dvořák Quartet. The workshop cooperates with the best educationalists in the Czech Republic over the long term. Musicians who now play in the best international symphony orchestras started with instruments from AKORD KVINT. The company’s attention to detail and the special care they give their customers as well as affordability have afforded them the opportunity to sell their instruments to 30 countries around the world (e.g. Japan, Germany, USA, Singapore, Russia, Canada and Poland).

AKORD KVINT, www.akordkvint.com

RÁCZ VIOLINS

This family of violin makers from Luby manufactures, repairs and restores bowed musical instruments. When making their instruments, they follow the technologies of old masters and use the best quality materials. Their instruments are coated with spirit or oil varnishes made according to an old recipe. These varnishes demonstrably improve the acoustic properties of each instrument. However, this is not the only reason why their instruments are famous all over the world. They have also received prestigious awards for the quality of their sound and generally for their processing. For their violins, they mainly use Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesú designs. Petr Rácz, www.violin-racz.com
DID YOU KNOW?

František Kůs, who has been working alone in his own workshop since 1992, is one of the top master violin makers in the Czech Republic. In 1998, he worked with Tadeusz Slodyczka, the top Polish violin maker. In 1999, he passed the qualification test in the studio of Přemysl Otakar Špidlen and became a member of the Group of Master Violin Makers and Musical Experts. Currently, he is focused on making new instruments and works as a restorer in the Czech Museum of Music. He primarily makes violins, violas, dobros and guitars.

The Špidlens are a world-renowned family of violin makers with a long tradition. The present owner, Jan Špidlen, is carrying on this tradition for the fourth generation. The family company makes first-class bowed instruments. Their customers include leading Czech and foreign artists, such as Pavel Šporcl, Gidon Kremer, Kremerata Baltica and Leonidas Kavakos.

MASTER INSTRUMENTS

Tomáš Skála is a master violin maker who builds by hand master stringed musical instruments, such as violins, violas, violoncellos and double basses. He bases their manufacture on old Italian models, in particular A. Stradivari and J. Guarneri. The age of the resonant wood (maple) used in the instruments is more than 50 years and comes from former Yugoslavia. The spruce wood was harvested in the Italian or Austrian Alps.

Tomáš Skála Sr. continues the manufacturing of stringed instruments by the Sander and Lupač families. His son, Tomáš Skála Jr., makes instruments and is a fourth-generation violin maker. The violin-making workshop where Tomáš Skála Sr. has been working for more than 25 years is located in the town of Luby, which is famous for its violin-making tradition. Tomáš Skála, www.violin-skala.cz/en
GUITARS

George Harrison played a Futurama, the Czechoslovak guitar, long before he became famous. The model for the Futurama was the Grazioso, which was built in 1955 as the first Czechoslovak electro-acoustic guitar. It received a gold medal at EXPO 58 in Brussels. George Harrison was not the only one who fell in love with this Czechoslovak guitar. During their early musical stages, James Patrick “Jimmy” Page, Albert Lee and Tony Sheridan played this guitar, too. The Grazioso guitar and its manufacturer, Jolana, have been inspiring Czech manufacturers of musical instruments ever since. The company NBE Corp., which succeeded the now defunct Jolana brand, manufacturers a model guitar range named Grazioso II with certain elements found in the original design.

Since 1996, the company BSG Musical Instruments has been hand-making acoustic guitars in the grade of precision handicraft products. The company emphasises the careful selection of wood used, thus ensuring the sound quality of each instrument. The appearance and the design of manufactured guitars follow successful classical designs and reflect modern trends and technological expertise that are optimal for each instrument’s life and sound stability. With respect to the fact that BSG Musical Instruments do not focus on mass series production but custom-made manual production, the company can offer an individual approach to each manufactured instrument when trying to fulfil the wishes and needs of every client. It’s mainly because of their quality that the BSG guitars are successfully sold not only in EU countries, as well as in Switzerland and Norway, but also in the USA, Japan, China and Australia.

BSG Musical Instruments, www.bsguitars.cz
ONE OF TOP 5 GUITAR MAKERS WORLDWIDE

The ROZAWOOD workshop is the vision of luthier Roman Zajiček, considered among the “top 5” guitar makers worldwide. All production (acoustic flattop and archtop guitars, resonator guitars, octave mandolins, mandocellos, bouzoukis and tenor and terz or baritone guitars) is made only from selected solid tonewoods and is entirely handmade in every detail. His instruments are known for their impressive tone and impeccable craftsmanship.

Roman is part of the impressive history of Bohemian instrument making, which is regarded as one of the longest in the world. Roman’s knowledge of traditional violin construction, combined with his technical insight and experience as a guitar maker, made him one of the finest luthiers in Europe. His unique construction design resulted over the years in a wide range of fine high-end acoustic instruments of the highest quality and impressive acoustic sound.

ROZAWOOD is not a factory or a workshop, but an artist’s studio where only skilled and trained luthiers put their best efforts into every unique ROZAWOOD instrument.

ROZAWOOD,

www.rozawood.cz
The company FURCH GUITARS was established in 1981 and gradually became one of the most important world producers of acoustic guitars and basses. For its instruments, it uses premium materials of the best quality acquired with respect to the environment. These materials in combination with unique manufacturing processes and precise refinement ensure the exceptional sound in Furch acoustic guitars that the company strives to further develop. This is the goal of their research activities where it pushes the envelope of the acoustic guitar industry and develops new technologies and manufacturing processes that bring their instruments closer to perfection. Currently, Furch ships its acoustic guitars with an extended 3-year warranty to 32 countries on five continents. It employs 60 leading instrument makers and annually produces more than 7,000 acoustic guitars that are used by, for example, Al Di Meola, Suzanne Vega or Per Gessle.

FURCH GUITARS,

www.furchguitars.com
NBE Corp. focuses on the production of stringed electric instruments, in particular bass guitars and guitars. It also produces double basses, violoncellos, violas, violins and ukuleles. The company builds on the 120-year tradition of musical instrument manufacturing in Hořovice in Central Bohemia. Since its establishment in 2001, the company has been producing instruments, especially for foreign brands, but is currently producing its own brands too. These brands are revived traditional ones such as ESH and Clover bass guitars, Stromberg jazz guitars and last but not least the legendary Czech guitar brand “Jolana”, which won the hearts of several generations of musicians from all over the world. The instruments are manufactured by professionals who have worked in the field for dozens of years and are still passing their skills on to the next generation. The company places an emphasis on the high-quality craftsmanship of its products, which is ensured by a combination of traditional manual processes and modern technologies. NBE Corp., www.nbe.cz

DID YOU KNOW?

The research activities of Furch Guitars have helped the company to bring unique production and design technologies to the market in the form of its proprietary front and back plate voicing, special UV lacquering with an extraordinary thin and resistant consistency and high gloss. The Furch CNR System innovative composite neck design, which ensures long neck stability and up to 90% higher resistance against possible deformations, is also ground-breaking. The first CNC machine was acquired 16 years ago. Decorations, including logos, are laser-cut and modern technologies are also used when voicing the sounding boards. A robot for polishing guitars is one of the latest innovations in the company. However, there are still many production operations where automation makes no sense since the production quality would drop.

Custom manufacturing of acoustic and jazz archtop guitars is provided by the company belonging to Jan Fišer. He has been making guitars under his own brand since 2005. He has developed several of his own models and is still experimenting with new wood materials and designs. Jan Fišer, www.fiserguitars.cz
The company Schneider has been manufacturing musical instruments since 1924, when Albert Schneider began to manufacture the first instruments, mainly lutes and mandolins. Today, the company’s range is not limited to master instruments, though they are the main focus of the company. They also manufacture instruments for students. Customers may choose from classical Spanish-type guitars and western guitars that are completely made of solid wood or in combination with other materials. For clients with special requirements, the company produces custom-built guitars. Every time, however, the instrument is made to the company’s own designs, which not only ensures the pure sound but also employs the time-tested instrument-building excellence. Guitars that Schneider produces are played by musicians such as Luciano Tortorelli.

Rostislav Čapek has been making banjos and mandolins under the Čapek brand since 1985. In his range, you can find all the instruments belonging to the banjo family (5-string banjos, tenor banjos, plectrum banjos, openback banjos, little 5-string banjos and banjolele) and to the mandolin family (mandolins, mandolas, mandocellos, octave mandolins of both A and F types). All these instruments are played in both country and bluegrass bands and in jazz and symphonic orchestras. All instruments leaving Čapek Instruments are handmade originals built to the client’s requirements. Only the best quality wood from the whole world is used in manufacturing, and other components (tuners, banjo metal parts, etc.) are of first-class quality too. More than one half of the production is exported, mainly to the USA, Germany and Scandinavia. Mandolins and banjos from the Čapek brand are played for example by Ricky Skaggs, a 14-time Grammy award winner, Ned Luberecki, one of the best banjo players in the world, and Peter Rowan.

Čapek Instruments, www.capekinstruments.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Bosnian maple used for Čapek mandolins comes from the same area as the wood for Stradivari´s violins.
The manufacturing of wind instruments in Bohemia dates back to the mid-15th century. To this day, they accompany famous musical artists all over the world. For example, the instruments made by AMATI - Denak accompany Albert Berger, an Israeli saxophonist, who performed concerts with BRAVOUR saxophones in South Africa. AMATI - Denak continues the work of V.F. Červený, a famous designer of wind instruments.

A musical ensemble from Rožmberk helped to nurture European music culture since the 16th century, and it gradually developed into an elite ensemble that could stage purely instrumental concerts. The ensemble of elite trumpeters was able to replace singing. A collection of these unique Renaissance wind instruments is held by the National Museum - Czech Museum of Music.

**THE HIT OF THE CENTURY - BEER BARREL POLKA**

The song “Beer Barrel Polka” (“Škoda lásky” in Czech) is probably the best known Czech song to become popular in many countries during World War II. It was written in 1927 by the musical composer Jaromír Vejvoda. The song was translated into almost 30 languages and became popular among soldiers on all battlefronts; it was sung by German, English and American soldiers. General Dwight D. Eisenhower reportedly said that this song had helped to win the war. Today, 14 different names of the song are registered. In 1995, the song accompanied the shuttle Discovery’s crew who used it as a wake-up alarm.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The musical instruments from the company owned by V.F. Červený were so famous in their time that when Richard Wagner was looking for an instrument that could play the prelude of his 16-hour-long Der Ring des Nibelungen, he wrote “Cerveny tube” on the score.
AMATI - DENAK

AMATI is one of Europe’s biggest manufacturers of musical instruments. Its brass and woodwind instruments are made exclusively by skilled Czech craftsmen drawing on centuries of experience. The company manufactures instruments in the cities of Kraslice and Hradec Králové, where the tradition of musical instrument manufacture dates back hundreds of years. Each of the two cities underwent a completely different historical evolution. Kraslice could be considered a real cradle of musical instrument production in the Czech Republic because stringed instruments were first produced there at the beginning of the 17th century. The first factory was established in Kraslice in 1840. The factory made Austrian- and French-system instruments from the beginning of the 19th century, and by the end of the 19th century, there were 11 factories employing some 300 workers, plus around 500 additional people in domestic production. In September 1945, a cooperative of musical instrument manufacturers was established in Kraslice to produce wind and stringed instruments, which took the name AMATI. In 1948, the entire production was nationalised, and Kraslice gradually became a centre of wind and percussion instrument manufacture. Today, AMATI - Denak boasts 200 employees and ranks as one of the largest manufacturers of musical instruments in Europe. The second factory in Hradec Králové manufactures all rotary valve V.F. Červený instruments (since 1842), and the current Kraslice factory also produces cases for instruments. Amati and Červený factories have been part of the UK-owned Geneva Group since 2016. AMATI - Denak, www.amati.cz

DID YOU KNOW?

Laco Deczi, an internationally renowned trumpeter and composer, helped to design the ATR 606S trumpet. The trumpet is suited for jazz songs and has an original mouthpiece Amati 13 W named “Laco Deczi”.

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The brass instruments of the company Josef Lídl Brno are built on tradition and the many years of experience of Czech instrument makers who hugely contributed to the development of the world-class instrument-making industry. Their brass instruments have been well renowned and celebrated for years. Thanks to traditional processes and that fact that much of the work is done by hand, artists may enjoy the instruments’ excellent sound and top-class craftsmanship that ensures many years of playing. Josef Lídl Brno is a traditional trademark and guarantee of quality.

Josef Lídł,

www.joseflidl.cz
M. Jiracek & sons is a family business established at the beginning of 1992. In their production, they build on the more than 35 years of experience its founder, Milan Jiráček, has in the field. Now the company is run by the founder’s sons - Milan and Vlastimil Jiráček, and Jaroslav Bukovský. Their main activity is the production of master wind instruments, i.e. trumpets, flugelhorns, French horns and replicas of historic musical instruments. The company is internationally famous for its natural horns 510 and 511, and Vienna horns 109D. In the Czech Republic, trumpets and flugelhorns are its most popular items. The annual capacity of the company is 50 master trumpets and 20 French horns. When manufacturing instruments, the company builds on the technological know-how of old masters, which it combines with modern technological processes. Accomplished musicians from the Czech Republic and the whole world play their instruments. M. Jiracek & sons, www.jiracek.eu/en
DID YOU KNOW?

Folk and traditional whistles and flutes are often used in music therapy nowadays. Their sound is rich in overtones, and the instruments are suitable for making relaxing music and doing breathing and motor exercises. Since the playing technique is simple, the client can enjoy his/her playing, which helps them to overcome their own limitations and free them from their misconception that they cannot create their own music. Moreover, the flutes will delight you and put you in an artistic mood just with its unique looks and natural processing.

Marek Gonda makes unusual folk whistles and flutes. He uses purely Czech wood for his instruments and is keenly aware of using their specific acoustic properties and aesthetic qualities to the fullest. He focuses on such flutes that are, due to their easy use, attractive for people who are not musicians. Thus, he helps to return music to everyday life again. On the other hand, he also makes instruments for clients having distinctive tastes and specific requirements. Most of his instruments are decorated with carvings, sometimes supplemented by inserted pieces of wood or gems. When making instruments, he is guided by procedures and forms that he knows from nature. A product from him is not only a musical instrument but also a subject that should convey a sense of nobility, beauty and joy to his clients. He has orders from abroad (France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Poland and USA) mainly from professional musicians and therapists who appreciate the specific features and qualities of his whistles and flutes.

The production of musical fittings and accessories also has its representatives in the Czech Republic. The production range of the ŠIBA company includes cases, racks and holders, lighting and sounding technologies, studio furniture, orchestra furniture and mobile stage systems. Mgr. Jiří Prudký, which focuses on custom-made items rather than on mass production, is another company that is engaged in the production of sleeves and cases for musical instruments. The company Gorstrings specialises in the production of strings for classical and resonator guitars, ukuleles and mandolins.

### UNIQUE CZECH PLECTRUMS

Janíček PICKS was founded in 2013 as an off-shoot from the Janíček, Father & Son, family business that dates back to 1991. Over the past 28 years, they have specialised in the development and production of picks with the world’s foremost unique non-slip surface. The primary advantage of picks from Janíček’s is the perfectly bonded surface on the grip, which gives players the utmost comfort and control during play. All settings of the picks are unique and protected by patents worldwide. The picks special non-slip surface is well-known among connoisseurs as the “cat’s tongue”. Just easily take their new generation pick between your fingers and let the strumming flow, as your playing becomes pure delight. Their picks do not slip and do not turn, even when your fingers are wet, sweaty or greasy. The company is able to produce various promotional picks, keepsake picks, picks with a band name on it, picks made for special occasions and other picks, made to order, to your own specifications. Janíček PICKS, [www.janicekpicks.com](http://www.janicekpicks.com)
DID YOU KNOW?

Handmade boutique guitar tone by Salvation Audio is very successful all over the world. The turning point was the moment when Michael Wagener, a famous music producer who produced records by, for example, Metallica or Ozzy Osbourne gave the company a ring. He introduced them to Wolf Hoffman, for whom they tailor-made three amplifiers. From here, it was just a small step to Smashing Pumpkins. Guitar pedals from Salvation Audio, are used, for example, by Richard Fortus, a guitar player of Guns N´Roses. They are able to make replicas of discontinued pedals with the same sound and in smaller versions without any internal power supply. The company has shipped its products to all the continents.

DESIGN AND LEATHER CRAFTER

The Hemr trademark and company were founded in 2000 with the aim of designing and manufacturing original leather products of the best quality and to create a vast range of top-class handmade products with a distinctive design that cannot be seen anywhere else. Original straps for musicians and premium leather picks are included in their production range. There are no limits for the Hemr brand, so they are able to design and make any original products based on a client’s wishes and needs. Therefore, unique products that are practical, elegant, have a long life, and are harmonic in combination of natural materials are prepared, combined and handmade. One of their prominent customers is Rhonda Vincent, the US bluegrass queen, who ordered a mandolin strap covered with Swarowski crystals. Other clients include, for example, Lianne La Havas, a British singer and the Taylor Brothers from Germany.

Ladislav Hemrlík,
www.hemrlík.com
CASES FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR ACCESSORIES

This company offers manufacturing of cases and other equipment for musical instruments, stage, scene, studio and theatre technologies. The range of products includes cases and equipment for musical instruments, as well as any other situation where transport cases are required. They can offer sewn gig bags, solid wooden or plastic cases, transport flight-cases, 19-inch rack equipment, cable drums, holders, studio furniture and a variety of other products. Finally, they also offer a luxurious “Custom Series” of solid leather instrument cases.
In the area of stage, scenery, stand, studio and theatre technologies, they specialise in all sorts of mechanical equipment for theatres, concert halls, sporting and cultural facilities.
Šiba Plus,
www.siba.cz

DOUBLE BASS AND HISTORICAL BOW

David Herman is a double bass player and a bow maker who studied bass playing under Prof. Miloslav Gajdoš. Thanks to playing in Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, Janáček Theatre Brno and Czech Ensemble Baroque, he gradually got into manufacturing and repairing bows.
Currently, he manufactures historical and modern bows for all instrument groups specialising in bass instruments, viols, violones and double basses. All his products are made based on originals and information available in world museums and private collections. Baroque, classicistic and modern models are offered too.
David Herman,
www.dbassbow.com
DID YOU KNOW?

Bows are essential for musicians, but they still debate the extent (20 to 50%) to which they affect the quality of the instrument sound.
PELLWOOD Drumsticks has been manufacturing professional drumsticks since 1990. The drumsticks are produced using traditional technology from local hornbeam and imported hickory (USA) wood. High quality and constant weight are the greatest assets of their products. In 2009, the company PELLWOOD took the innovative and unique step of introducing a pre-production wood weighing process. Thus, the wood is sorted into weight categories, and each drumstick model has specifically allotted wood with the weight that does not change. If you buy PELLWOOD drumsticks and later you buy the same type, they will have the same weight. Only the best quality wood is used for manufacturing PELLWOOD drumsticks.

Drumsticks that do not meet their high standards are sold as cheap X-LINE STIX. PELLWOOD drumsticks are finished using a fine layer of anti-slip lacquer OLI-PUR. Russell Gilbrook from the legendary British hard-rock band Uriah Heep is, for example, counted among the company’s satisfied customers. The drumsticks are exported to 29 countries around the world.

PELLWOOD, www.pellwood.com
CONTACTS

INTEREST GROUPS
AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Association of Musical Instruments Makers of the Czech Republic, www.avhn.cz

The association brings together legal entities and natural persons that manufacture musical instruments, their components and accessories. The aim of the association is to protect, support and achieve the common interests of its members.

Czech Piano Association, www.ceskyklavirnickysvaz.cz

The Czech Piano Association is an organisation that brings together piano manufacturers, professional educators and specialists in production or service of upright pianos and grand pianos. The main aim and the target of this association is to bring together specialists in the field of piano manufacturing for the purpose of sharing experience among piano tuners, service technicians and production technicians. Other association activities include organising visits of international specialists and arranging educational excursions to Czech and foreign companies that manufacture or restore grand and upright pianos. Another important role of this association is to attract attention to the craft of piano making. The Czech Piano Association is a member of EUROPIANO association. EUROPIANO associates 17 member associations from various European countries.

Association of Violin Makers and Carvers, www.pro-rezbare.cz

The association is an informal group of eight violin makers who manufacture, repair and sell bowed musical instruments and operate in different regions of the Czech Republic.

The association members build copies of historical bowed instruments, e.g. viols or vielles. Upon a client’s request, these instruments may be decorated with carvings, carved heads or inlays. Copies of historical instruments are sought after by ensembles focusing on authentic interpretation of old music.

The major clients of the association are music schools, conservatories, professional chamber orchestras and folk ensembles. Their viols and violins are played in Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Austria and Greece.

PRODUCERS

AKORD KVINT spol. s r.o., www.akordkvint.com

Builds unique student, concert and master violins, violas and violoncellos.

AMATI - Denak, s.r.o., www.amati.cz

A strongly export-oriented company, which produces brass and woodwind instruments.


Produces custom-made drumsticks for drummers.
BSG Musical Instruments s.r.o., www.bsguitars.cz
The manufacturer of acoustic guitars with more than 20 years of tradition.

Čapek Instruments, www.capekinstruments.com
The company has been manufacturing banjos and mandolins since 1985.

David Herman, www.dbassbow.com
Currently, he manufactures historical and modern bows for all instrument groups, specialising in bass instruments, viols, violones and double basses.

DELICIA accordions s.r.o., www.delicia.cz
100 years of tradition and long-term experience of their employees help to build beautiful and quality instruments ranging from school to professional and master instruments.

DETOA Albrechtice s.r.o., www.detoa.cz/en
Currently, the company is the biggest and oldest manufacturer of wooden toys, components for parlour games, wooden beads but also upright-piano and grand-piano actions, and keyboards in the Czech Republic.

FURCH GUITARS, s.r.o., www.furchguitars.com
A technological leader in production of acoustic guitars and basses of premium quality. It employs many unique manufacturing processes and technologies.

The company HARMONIKAS continues its century-long tradition in production of harmonicas and reeds in the Czech Republic. The largest manufacturer in its field.

Jan Fišer, www.fiserguitars.cz
Manufactures acoustic and jazz archtop guitars.

Janíček PICKS, s.r.o., www.janicekpicks.com
The company has been producing nylon picks since 1991.

Josef Lídl, spol. s r.o., www.joseflidl.cz
A traditional manufacturer of wind brass instruments, flugelhorns, trumpets, double horns and French horns since 1892.


Ladislav Hemrík, www.hemrlik.com
Offers original designs of several strap collections for various guitars, banjos, mandolins, bouzoukis and many more, or original leather picks.

The main activity of the company is manufacturing wind instruments, e.g. trumpets, flugelhorns, French horns and hunting horns.

Marek Gonda is a manufacturer of unusual folk flutes such as Slovak fujaras and overtone flutes.

NBE Corp., www.nbe.cz
The manufacturer of electric guitars and other string instruments of several brands.

PELLWOOD, www.pellwood.com
PELLWOOD Drumsticks has been manufacturing professional drumsticks since 1990.

Petr Rácz, www.violin-racz.com
The family company that manufactures, repairs and restores bowed musical instruments.
Petr Auředník, [www.aurednikbows.com](http://www.aurednikbows.com)  
A master bow maker who makes modern custom-made bows.

PETROF, spol. s r.o., [www.petrof.com](http://www.petrof.com)  
Currently, the company is the largest manufacturer of acoustic grand pianos and upright pianos in Europe. It operates on 5 continents and exports its products to more than 65 counties in the whole world. Since 1864, when Antonín Petrof built his first grand piano, the company has manufactured approx. 630,000 instruments under the PETROF trademark and many others in the PETROF Brand Family.

Rastislav Žumár, [www.rastidamartin.com](http://www.rastidamartin.com)  
Focuses mainly on production of new instruments, such as violas, violins and violoncellos, their repairs and services.

ROZAWOOD, a.s., [www.rozawood.cz](http://www.rozawood.cz)  
Produces acoustic flattop and archtop guitars, resonator guitars, octave mandolins, mandocellos, bouzoukis and tenor, terz or baritone guitars.

The company Schneider has been making guitars already for four generations. The company’s range includes instruments for masters but also students.

Manufacturer of string musical instruments that has carried on a tradition for more than 300 years. 100 % Czech instruments are produced on the company premises - violins, violas, violoncellos, double basses and classical guitars.

Šiba Plus s.r.o., [www.siba.cz](http://www.siba.cz)  
Production of cases and accessories for musical instruments. All products are not only mass-produced but also custom-made to a client’s specific request.

Tomáš Koštejn, [www.smycce-kostejn.cz](http://www.smycce-kostejn.cz)  
Manufactures custom-made bows and restores them.

A master violin maker who manually builds master stringed musical instruments, like violins, violas, violoncellos and double basses.

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The catalogue of musical instruments in the Czech Republic was created as a collaboration between the Agency CzechTrade and the Association of Musical Instruments Makers of the Czech Republic.
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