



THE IPAVEC HOUSE

Today's Ipavec House was built by the Wurmbrand family around 1760. It was intended as the seat of the court, but instead, in 1769 it became the premises of a school. The house survived the devastating fire of 1797 and was one of the few undamaged buildings in the square. Upon his arrival in Šentjur in 1805, Franc Ipavec opened his physician's practice there. His successor Gustav Ipavec decided to construct a new building, locating it opposite his birth house, and moved his surgery into it. In addition to the ground floor, the house also has an attic and a basement. Through the main entrance, we enter an arched passage that leads to a side door, which opens onto a garden with a fountain and a linden tree. From the hallway, stairs lead to the basement and to the first floor. The lower rooms were intended for the surgery (today serving as the wedding hall), and the upper floor for family life and the salon for socialising. The house underwent a complete renovation before World War II based on plans by the architect Jože Plečnik. Dr. Herbert Kartin invested 380,000 old Yugoslav dinars in it. The renovation project envisaged the arrangement of attic rooms, in which the exhibition "Ipavci, Composers and Doctors in Šentjur" is on display today.



ALOJZ 1815-1849

Alojz Ipavec was one of the main Slovenian early romantic composers. His opus was created in contact with the Viennese environment, which left a strong mark on him. Most of the compositions have been preserved in piano versions, but some of them have also been orchestrated. The only piece composed to words in Slovenian is The Lark, which was published in 1859 in the songbook "Pesmarica za kratek čas"; it was published by Benjamin and Gustav Ipavec and Dragotin Ferdinand Ripšl.



The First Austrian Ladies' Quartet

Fani, Amalija and Marija, daughters of Ivanka (Žanetka) Ipavec, married name Čampa, together with Marianne Gallowitsch, who was succeeded by Frieda Perner, formed the core of the First Austrian Ladies' Quartet (Erstes Österreichisches Damenquartett). One of its first public performances was in the great hall of the Vienna Music Society (Wiener Musikverein) and was a great success. From 1880 to 1887, the quartet performed in many cities of the Habsburg Monarchy, and in Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Russia. Among Slovenian works, the composition Little Cloud, adapted from the text by Anton Aškerc, composed by Gustav Ipavec and sung by the quartet before the Russian Tsar Alexander III, was a particular success.



BENJAMIN 1829-1908

He established himself professionally and musically in Graz and, among other things, became the choirmaster of the Slovenian student choir. Benjamin focused on setting to music lyrics that were emotionally and ideologically close to him. He selected poetry by Valentin Vodnik, France Prešeren, Simon Jenko, Simon Gregorčič, Josip Stritar and Anton Aškerc. After 1851, he created a series of songs for soloist and piano (lieds), among which works such as The Unmarried Mother, Gypsy Mary, To the Cloud, Abandoned, If Dew Falls on Poljane and The Monk are worth highlighting. Among other genres, Benjamin was strongly attracted to opera music. Two pieces were created for the stage. The operetta The Birdcage was first staged in 1866 in the Ljubljana Reading Room, and The Noblemen of Teharje, the first work with a historical theme, had its baptismal first night in December 1892, two months after the opening of the provincial theatre in Ljubljana.



GUSTAV 1831-1908

Aside from the field of health, Gustav established himself increasingly on the political stage. He played an important role in the founding of the Celje Reading Room in 1862, in his hometown he became a member of the municipal representation, and in 1869 mayor, remaining in that position until 1899. After the division of the municipality into the urban centre and the surrounding area in 1905, he became mayor of the urban centre, performed the



function until 1908, then resigned due to ill health and died the same year. In his role as mayor, he paid great attention to education, cultural life, firefighting, water supply and the modernisation of agriculture. On his initiative, the school in Šentjur was expanded into a three- and later a four-grade school. During his tenure, the fire brigade and a fruit growers' association (The Cesarjevič Rudolf Fruit Growers' Association for Lower Styria), a mixed choir and a branch of the Society of Sts. Cyril and Methodius were established. He was especially in favour of the establishment of a provincial agricultural school in Šentjur, which began operating after his death. He even cultivated a new variety of apple – the "bogatinika". Musically, Gustav did not establish himself as well as Benjamin, but Gustav Ipavec's songs spread quickly among the people due to their appealing melodies. Many songs have become national favourites, such as Everything Passes, I'm Slovenian, On the Dusk, Mountain Flower, To the Swallow in Farewell, Slovenian Girl, To the Little Cloud and Lady Spinning.



JOSIP 1873-1921

He started working in music early on, with the ballet pantomime The Hubby being created in Graz and published in a piano version in 1901 by Lavoslav Schwentner. The pantomime was a great success, granting him fame as the »Slovenian Mozart«. During his military service, he began to write his greatest work, The Giddy Princess, for which the libretto was written by Mara pl. Berks. The burden of medical work limited the time Josip had to create music, so apart from The Giddy Princess, he created only a few lieds, including I Had Two Loves, To the Linden Tree and To the Nightingale.



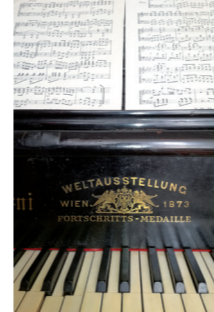


IPAVCI

The Ipavec family originates from Bela krajina, where Jurij Ipavec (Ipavitz) was first an army surgeon and later a lay medical practitioner in Gradac. Franc (Franz) Ipavec was born there and was baptised on August 11, 1776 in the parish of Podzemelj in Bela krajina. After the death of his parents, Franc was cared for by his brother Matija, who settled in Celje and worked as a physician and barber. Franc became acquainted with the basics of medical practice, and later, after five years of schooling in Graz, he passed the medical exam and thus gained the right to run an independent physician's practice. He opened his surgery on September 11, 1805, in Sveti Jurij pod Rifnikom. Visiting Johann pl. Gadolle at the nearby Blagovna mansion, he met the Vienna-born and highly musical Katarina Schweighofer and married her on February 21, 1814. From the marriage of Franc and Katarina Ipavec, nine children were born, of whom the sons Alojz, Benjamin and Gustav in particular bolstered the family tradition of doctors and musicians.



FROM THE MARRIAGE OF
FRANC AND KATARINA
IPAVEC, NINE CHILDREN
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In 1821, Franc Ipavec bought a house in the square of Zgornji trg in which he had previously had a surgery. The piano and harp recitals of his wife Katarina drew the local elite to gather there, and in this way, the house became not only a physician's surgery, but also a music studio. Upstairs, the family arranged a salon for their leisure time, which »shone in brownish-reddish-yellow hues» and was for this reason also called the »Golden Salon«. The central object in the salon was the piano. Due to its size and intricate sophistication, this extremely expensive instrument immediately caught the eye, so no bourgeois interior at the time was complete without one. Given the musical creativity of the Ipavec family, the piano not only played the role of a fashionable piece of furniture, but was an essential functional object. With the help of special glasses, you can take a virtual walk around the room. On the same floor, there is an exhibition about major events in Šentjur during the time of the Ipavec family, as at that time the square was a strong focus for the awakening of Slovenian national consciousness. The story begins in 1805, when Franc Ipavec moved there, and ends in 1921 with the death of Josip Ipavec, who still combined the dual roles of doctor and composer,

a characteristic distinction of several of his predecessors. The attic part presents in greater detail the life path of the individual family members Alojz, Benjamin, Gustav and Josip. Also on display is visual material on the theme of their lives, including video clips from the "Ipavci" TV series, which was filmed decades ago. Visitors can also listen to their compositions. Among the relatively modest number of preserved original objects, the wreath that the members of the First Austrian Ladies' Quartet received at a concert in Lyon stands out.



Text: Jože Rataj and Gabrijela Kovačič,
Celje Regional Museum,
Photos: Archives of the Municipality of
Šentjur, Proofreading: Amidas,
Translation: Katja Kladnik, Design: Peter Arlič, s.p.,
Printed by: Papirna galanterija Ferlež, s.p.,
Published by: Municipality of Šentjur, December 2020

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AND A WEDDING HALL.



OBČINA ŠENTJUR

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