

THE TRBOVLJE WORKERS' BAND

since 1903

About the orchestra

The Trbovlje Workers' Band was founded in 1903. In the beginning, twenty bandsmen mainly performed at different public events of the working class, as well as those of local character. The real development of the band began in the 30's, while its artistic path went uphill after World War II. Throughout the last decades, the Trbovlje Workers' Band has been among the best Slovene amateur wind orchestra. The band proved their high-quality musical performance and long-lasting tradition by winning the first prizes at different wind orchestra competitions at home, as well as at world competitions of wind and brass orchestras in Kerkrade in the Netherlands in the years 1974, 1978, 1981 and 1993. The artistic expression of the Trbovlje Workers' Band is to be found in authentic performance, inner enthusiasm and liveliness of spirit of its members. It brought the band to the very summit of orchestral music performance. Today the Trbovlje Workers' Band, which consists of more than ninety musicians, plays some of the most demanding concert music, which has classified it as a woodwind, brass and percussion orchestra. With superb intonation and rhythmicity they thrill their audiences and enjoy acclaim of music experts. For their successful cultural mission the band received a number of awards and state honors. They released several LP records, cassettes and CDs, presenting different pieces of music played by the Trbovlje Workers' Band.

On the basis of extraordinary successes that the orchestra has been achieving in the last decades, the WMC Foundation (Kerkrade, The Netherlands) invited the Trbovlje Workers' Band to participate at the 14th World Music Contest (WMC 2001) in the prestigious concert division. At this competition, the orchestra performed the most demanding compositions of A. Comitas, G. Rossini, P. Hindemith and R. Golob and obtained the overall 8th position.

Joze Kotar, artistic leader and conductor of the Trbovlje Workers' Band

Joze Kotar (b. 1970) has been a member of the Trbovlje Workers' Band since 1980. He had been deputy conductor of the band for several years. Since 2007 he has been the artistic leader and the conductor of the band.

He is a solo clarinetist with the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra and associate professor at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. He began playing the clarinet in his home-town, Trbovlje, under the teaching of Ervin Plevnik. He then continued his studies in Ljubljana under Prof. Alojz Zupan, and in 1992 completed his postgraduate studies at the Academy of Music. In numerous competitions at home and abroad he has won nine first prizes, and has also been granted the Academy and the University Prešeren Award. As a soloist, chamber musician and member of various chamber ensembles, Kotar performs in Slovenia and abroad (Europe, USA, South America, ...), leads seminars for the clarinet and chamber music (Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Israel, Brazil, ...), and participates in juries of international competitions. As a soloist as well as a member of various ensembles, he has recorded ten CDs. He is also a member, co-founder and artistic director of the Slovenian Clarinet Orchestra and the Slovenian Clarinet Sextet and a member of the Ariart Wind Quintet and the MD7 Contemporary Music Ensemble.

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