



Discover the origin of the song “The Beer Barrel Polka”

Dear friends of wind music,

The melody of the song “**Skoda lasky**” is well-known all over the world. We can hear it on the radios, at concerts, in films, many of us are able to play it on various musical instruments or at least to sing it. There are not many compositions that have settled down in hearts of millions of people and became so popular in many countries of the world that they regard them as their own. Only few songs have got so many language versions and names.

Despite its fame or perhaps because of it, the origin of the composition remains a mystery. Do you know where the song came into existence and who is its author? The answer to these questions can be given by our educational and entertaining programme “**Discover the origin of the song “The Beer Barrel Polka”**”.

We offer you the opportunity to learn about the history of this famous song and the life of its author. You will visit his native village, **Zbraslav**, nowadays a part of Prague. Zbraslav is an exceptional place not only for its relation to the composer but also for its rich history. In the 2nd century BC the area was inhabited by the Celts, who built here one of the biggest settlements in Central Europe. In 1292 a monastery was established by the Czech king Wenceslav II., which was later on rebuilt in the Baroque style and nowadays there is the Museum of Oriental Art of the National Gallery in the former convent of the monastery.

You will also be given the possibility to have lunch or dinner in the **restaurant Skoda lasky** (The Beer Barrel Polka), the birthplace of the composer and at the same time a museum with the exposition of the composer’s life and work. You will also learn about the road to fame the legendary song set off on more than 70 years ago. You will visit the composer’s grave and the unique urn yard of Zbraslav cemetery.

For bands and orchestras we will be pleased to arrange for an **open-air concert**. The orchestra should include the song Skoda lasky (The Beer Barrel Polka) in the concert repertoire. On demand we will send you the scores of the composition.

As a part of our programme package there is also a theatre performance in **The Black Light Theatre of Jiri Srnec** in Zbraslav or another black light theatre, an entertaining programme with Czech wind music and traditional Czech cuisine in the **restaurant U Zlateho Selatka** in Kladno (20 km from Prague) and a sightseeing tour in Zbraslav and Prague’s centre with a qualified guide.

The programme is prepared for groups, for fans of wind music as well as musicians.

Our agency also arranges for accommodation and other tourist services.

In case of your interest, please contact the festival and organizational agency **or-fea**, spol. s. r. o., cestovni agentura, Tesnov 9, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, www.orfea.cz, e-mail: incoming@orfea.cz, tel.: 00420 2 24814458, 00420 2 24813580, fax.: 00420 2 24812612.



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HIGH SEASON (April – October, Easter and 28.12. - 02.01.)

PACKAGE No. 1

260,00 EUR per person

+ 15,00 EUR additional fee for a single room

- 3x accommodation in a centrally located ***hotel with breakfast
- 1x dinner in the hotel
- lunch or dinner + programme in the restaurant Skoda lasky in Zbraslav
- dinner + programme in the restaurant U Zlateho selatka in Kladno
- black light theatre performance in the Black Light Theatre of Jiri Srnec in Zbraslav or in Prague’s centre
- participation in an open-air concert (for bands and orchestras)
- Prague and Zbraslav sightseeing tour without admission fees
- guide during the whole stay

PACKAGE No. 2

170,00 EUR per person

+ 10,00 EUR additional fee for a single room

- 3x accommodation in an **apartment hotel with breakfast
- 1x dinner in the hotel
- lunch or dinner + programme in the restaurant Skoda lasky in Zbraslav
- dinner + programme in the restaurant U Zlateho selatka in Kladno
- theatre performance in the Black Light Theatre of Jiri Srnec in Zbraslav or in Prague’s centre
- participation in an open air concert (for bands and orchestras)
- Prague and Zbraslav sightseeing tour without admission fees
- guide during the whole stay

LOW SEASON (January-March, November-December, except Easter and 28.12. - 02.01.)

PACKAGE No. 1

210,00 EUR per person

+ 12,00 EUR additional fee for a single room

- 3x accommodation in a centrally located ***hotel with breakfast
- 1x dinner in the hotel
- lunch or dinner + programme in the restaurant Skoda lasky in Zbraslav
- dinner + programme in the restaurant U Zlateho selatka in Kladno
- theatre performance in the Black Light Theatre of Jiri Srnec in Zbraslav or in Prague’s centre
- participation in an open-air concert (for bands and orchestras)
- Prague and Zbraslav sightseeing tour without admission fees
- guide during the whole stay

PACKAGE No. 2

125,00 EUR per person

+ 8,00 EUR additional fee for a single room

- 3x accommodation in an **apartment hotel with breakfast
- 1x dinner in the hotel
- lunch or dinner + programme in the restaurant Skoda lasky in Zbraslav
- dinner + programme in the restaurant U Zlateho selatka in Kladno
- theatre performance in the Black Light Theatre of Jiri Srnec in Zbraslav or in Prague’s centre
- participation in an open air concert (for bands and orchestras)
- Prague and Zbraslav sightseeing tour without admission fees
- guide during the whole stay

The prices given do not include travel costs and transportation costs in Prague.



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BOOKING FORM

Period:

Number of people:

Name of the group:

Address of the group’s leader:

e-mail:

***We book:**

package No. 1

package No. 2

We will arrive at the hotel on (date):

Expected arrival time at the hotel:

Requested rooming:

***We would like to have an open-air concert:**

yes

no



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The life of the composer

A musician, conductor and composer, sometimes called the King of Czech Polka, was born on March 28, 1902 in Zbraslav (nowadays a part of Prague). At the age of six he began playing the violin and later he took on the flugelhorn. At fifteen he became a member of his father's band, which he overtook in 1925. He composed more than 70 pieces, among them the most famous one – „Skoda lasky“ (Wasted Love). Originally the band played the „Modranska polka“. Words were added later, renaming it „Skoda lasky“. The composition was written in 1927. It has got 16 language versions and it has been used in 136 films and TV series. During World War II. the piece was played almost all over the world and it became so popular that people in many countries regarded it as their own. The composition was sung equally by armies of both warring camps. Even the Supreme Commander of the Western Corps in Europe, General Dwight Eisenhower, was so impressed by this polka that he publicly claimed it to be his most favourite song. „Rosamunde“ and „Roll out the Barrel“ or “The Beer Barrel Polka” are the most frequent names of the composition but it is also sung in French, Italian, Norwegian, Japanese and other languages. It appears in a variety of arrangements, from wind music, swing, country to pop music. In 2000 the song was awarded the title “Czech Hit of the Century”.

The composer died on November 13, 1988 at the age of eighty-six. At the instigation of his sons a festival of small wind orchestras has taken place on Zbraslav Square in honour of the composer since 1996.

Zbraslav, a romantic place with rich history

Thanks to its history Zbraslav is one of the most significant places not only in Prague but also in the whole Czech Republic. The most dominant historic sight of the place is Zbraslav Chateau. It was established in 1292 by Czech king Wenceslav II. as a monastery for the white monks. The king himself chose this place for its peaceful and beautiful countryside. In 1420 the monastery was plundered by Hussite armies and during the Thirty Year's War by the Swedish. At the turn of the 17th and 18th century it was rebuilt in the Baroque style by J.B. Santini and F.M. Kanka. In 1785 the monastery was closed and used for industrial production. In 1910 Zbraslav dominium was purchased by an industrialist Cyril Barton of Dobenin and the building was changed into a chateau. Nowadays there is a collection of oriental art of the National Gallery in the former convent of the monastery.

The oldest historic building in Zbraslav is the Church of St. Havel, situated on the hill Havlin, in the middle of Zbraslav cemetery. The oldest written evidence about its existence comes from 1115. Remains of Romanesque walls of the contemporary Baroque church are still noticeable. As a part of the cemetery there is also a unique urn yard, founded in 1964.

Another significant building in Zbraslav is Otto's Villa, a house built in 1912 for a famous Prague's publisher Jan Otta. It ranks among important examples of late Art Nouveau architecture.

Zbraslav is also a starting point for a visit to Zavist, one of the most important Celtic settlements in Central Europe and the largest one in the Czech Republic.