

M. Rúfus. His vocal works include numerous choral compositions and song cycles.

Ján Cikker started composing at a time when composition in Slovakia was only just finding its way. His talents and creativity were manifested in works of high artistic value that inspired future generations of composers. The recognition of Cikker during his lifetime was perhaps not as great at home as it was abroad, where his operas enjoyed success at the most famous opera houses.

Cikker was also a person of exceptional personal qualities. He protested against fascism by participating in the Slovak National Uprising, and his choral composition based on this experience, *Pochod povstalcov* (The Insurgents), became a legend. He has received many top artistic, national and international awards, including Vienna University's Gottfried von Herder Prize for humanism and ethical principles (1966), the UNESCO prize for music (1979), and the title of "National Artist" in Slovakia.

Ján Cikker found the purpose of his life in composing, and through it he attained an honoured position in European musical culture. He died in Bratislava on 21 December 1989. In 2011, he was posthumously awarded the Order of Ľudovít Štúr – First Class.



Resurrection opera score

Coin data

Denomination: **10 euro**

Material: **Ag 900/1000**

Cu 100/1000

Weight: **18 g**

Diameter: **34 mm**

Edge: deep inscription – „**HUDBA – UNIVERZÁLNA REČ ĽUDSTVA**”
(**Music – the universal language of mankind**)

Mintage: limited to a maximum of **20 000** pieces (in BU and proof quality)

Designer: **PhDr. Kliment Mitura**

Engraver: **Dalibor Schmidt**

Producer: **Kremnica Mint**

The obverse of the coin depicts the stylised outline of a violin with a harp to the right-hand side. Below it are depicted three opera houses: the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava, the Vienna State Opera and the State Opera in Prague. The upper part of the design shows the Slovak national emblem. Towards the left edge there is the name of the country „**SLOVENSKO**“ (Slovakia) with the year „**2011**“ underneath. In the lower part of the field there is the mark of the Kremnica Mint and the initials of the coin's designer **PhDr. Kliment Mitura**.

The reverse design features a portrait of Ján Cikker together with part of a piano keyboard in the upper right part. Below it there is the denomination „**10 EURO**“. The name „**JÁN CIKKER**“ and the years of his birth and death „**1911 – 1989**“ appear on the left side of the coin.

A handwritten signature of Ján Cikker in black ink, written in a cursive style.



100th anniversary of the birth of

JÁN CIKKER

Silver collector coin

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Photo: Expositions of the Ján Cikker Museum, Bedrich Schreiber

Portrait by: Anton Dubrovský

<http://www.nbs.sk/en/banknotes-and-coins/euro-coins/collector-coins>

Ján Cikker is one of the most important Slovak composers, a man who immensely enriched Slovak culture with his extensive work in the area of composing and education. His works are among the finest of what Slovak culture and art can offer the world.

Born on 29 July 1911 in Banská Bystrica, Ján Cikker was surrounded by music from an early age with his mother being a teacher of singing and piano. After completing his secondary education in Banská Bystrica, he continued his studies at the State Conservatory in Prague, at a time when the city was a hub for world artists. His studies there included one year at the Master's School of the composer Vítězslav Novák. After graduating, he received a Slovak regional scholarship to study in Vienna under the conductor Felix von Weingartner, who took him on as an outstanding student. From the Slavic environment of Prague, he thus entered the world of German culture. In 1937, Cikker came to the end of his studies in Vienna and began his national military service. In 1939, he accepted an offer from the Academy of Music and Drama in Bratislava to join the teaching staff. He worked and lived in Bratislava, but his home town remained Banská Bystrica. He was there in August 1944, when the Slovak National Uprising broke out. World War II inspired him to

compose the cantata Cantus filiorum and the trilogy of symphonic poems O živote (On life), Concertina for piano.

Once the war was over, he returned to his teaching and composing and further enriched them with literary activities. He wrote extensively about music while working for a time as a dramatic adviser at the opera section of the Slovak National Theatre.

In 1950, Cikker married Katarína Fiedlerová-Jurecká, who was a constant companion throughout his life. In 1951, he became a professor of composition at the Bratislava Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, where he would teach many future composers.

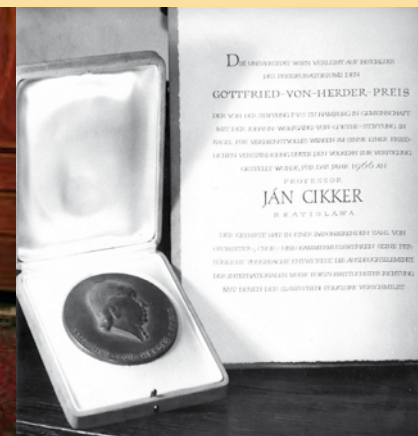
Cikker's work comprises almost all genres, but his principal area was opera. His main operatic works, including the librettos for all except the first two, were Juro Jánošík, Beg Bajazid, Mister Scrooge, Vzkriesenie (Resurrection), Hra o láske a smrti (A Play about Love and Death), Coriolanus, Rozsudok (Judgement), Obliehanie Bystrice (The Siege of Bystrica), Zo života hmyzu (From the Life of Insects), and the unfinished Antigona. Notable pieces from his works include the piano composition Tatranské potoky (Tatra Streams), the symphonic composition Dramatická fantázia (Dramatic Fantasy), and the oratorium Óda na radosť (Ode to Joy) based on poems by Slovak poet



Mister Scrooge's première in Bratislava on 30 November 1963



Ján Cikker



Gottfried von Herder Prize (1966)

Expositions of the Ján Cikker Museum in Bratislava