

V. F. Cerveny & Synove

Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic

- 1842 Vaclav Frantisek Cerveny (1819-1896)(photo 1) establishes a brass instrument factory in Hradec Kralove with four workers (*Groves Dictionary & The New Langwill Index*).
- 1840 Cerveny invents the phonikon, a type of baritone (*Groves*).
- 1846 Cerveny invents the cornon, a substitute for the French horn (*Groves*).
- 1848 Cerveny introduces an alto trumpet (photo 3) (*Groves*).
- 1850 Brother Frantisek (b.1825) establishes an outlet in New York City, making instruments from imported parts. It was located at 16 John Street (*NLI*). [Photo 4 is a saxhorn stamped with "NY".] [The Cerveny website says 1853.]
- 1852 The NY address is now 161 Bowery St (directory).
- 1853 The NY address is now 161 Christie St (directory).
- 1857 Last listing for Cerveny in New York (directory).
- 1858 Cerveny invents a contra-bass ophicleide called a tritonicon (photo 5)(*Groves*).
- 1859 Cerveny now has 80 workers (*NLI*).
- 1866 Son Jan dies (*NLI*).
- 1867 Cerveny opens a branch in Kiev (*NLI*).
- 1872 Son Otakar (b.1850) now runs the Kiev branch (*NLI*).
- 1876 Sons Jaroslav (1851-1928) & Stanislav (1854-1911) become partners and the company becomes C.F. Cerveny & Sohne. Sons Bohumil (b.1853) & Vaclav (b.1859) join later (*NLI*).
- 1880 They have over 100 workers making 3,000 instruments per year (*NLI*).
- 1882 The large bore "Kaiser" tubas are developed (photo 6) (*Groves*).
- 1891 They now have 120 workers (*NLI*).
- 1895 They supply 6,000 brass instruments to the Russian army (*NLI*).
- 1896 Founder C.F. Cerveny dies on January 19 (*NLI*).
- 1928 Karl Schamal is successor following the death of Jaroslav (*NLI*).
- 1948 Cerveny is merged with state-owned Amati (Cerveny).
- 1973 Production moves from the original factory to a new one in the same city (Cerveny).



- 1992 Cerveny becomes privatized as part of Amati-Denak Ltd (Cerveny catalog).
- 2016 British manufacturer Geneva purchases Cerveny and Amati (4barsrest.com).
- 2020 The Cerveny factory in Hradec Kralove closes due to the insolvency of Amati (Thomas Hejtmanek article).
- 2023 Cerveny instruments are still being made; perhaps all at the Amati factory in Kraslice.

Instruments marked with Louis Vitak as the sole US Agent in the US would date from 1890-1902 for Canton, Ohio, and 1902-1905 for Chicago (photo 3).

