

Obverse

The obverse depicts a man playing the fujara, set within a space delimited by the edge of the coin and by the left and lower edges of a decorative frame. To the left of the frame is the name of the issuing country 'SLOVENSKO', divided into three lines. Below the name are the coin's denomination '100' and currency 'EURO', one above the other, and below that, still to the left of the frame, is the Slovak coat of arms. The far left and right edges of the design feature decorative folk elements. The year of issuance '2021' appears below the frame at the bottom of the design.



Fujara making is a precision craft

Reverse

The reverse image consists of two details of a richly decorated fujara, set within a space delimited by the edge of the coin and by the right and lower edges of a decorative frame. In the lower left part of this space are the stylised letters 'PV', referring to the coin's designer Peter Valach, and the mint mark of the Kremnica Mint (Mincovňa Kremnica), consisting of the letters 'MK' placed between two dies. To the right of the frame is the inscription 'NEHMOTNÉ KULTÚRNE DEDIČSTVO' (intangible cultural heritage) together with two decorative folk elements. The word 'FUJARA' is inscribed below the frame at the bottom of the design.

Coin details

Denomination:	€100
Composition:	.900 gold, .75 silver, and .25 copper
Weight:	9.5 g
Diameter:	26 mm
Edge:	milled
Issuing volume:	limited to a maximum of 5,000 coins in proof quality
Designer:	Peter Valach
Engraver:	Dalibor Schmidt
Producer:	Kremnica Mint (Slovakia)



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Original Slovak text by Ľubica Pinčíková

Translated by Národná banka Slovenska

Photographs from the Slovak National Uprising Museum in Banská Bystrica, the Podpolianske Museum in Detva, and Shutterstock

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Intangible cultural heritage in Slovakia: The fujara and its music

GOLD COLLECTOR EURO COIN



Fujaras on display at an exhibition in Detva

The fujara – the instrument and its music – was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Slovakia in 2010. Previously, in 2005, the fujara was included in UNESCO's Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, and in 2008 it was included in the Proclamation's successor, UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The purpose of such recognition is to preserve unique items of intangible cultural heritage for future generations and thereby support humanity's cultural variety and creativity.

The fujara is a unique woodwind folk instrument – a jewel of traditional Slovak culture that is both an instrumental curiosity and an artistic treasure. The fujara was traditionally played mainly by shepherds, but would also appear at formal occasions or be used as a means of communication in central Slovakia. The body of the fujara consists of two interconnected parts: an exceptionally long main tube with three tone holes and a smaller

parallel tube. It is made typically from black elder, and less usually from maple, ash or locust. As well as being a musical instrument, the fujara is an artefact of great artistic value. It is usually richly decorated, with the contours of the decoration being cut into the wood and coloured with nitric acid. More rarely, the decoration comprises deep chip carving or narrow strips of brass plate. Plant motifs often feature in the decoration, as does the traditional ribbon pattern that is today preserved mainly in the embroidery of the traditional women's dress from Podpoľanie region. Each fujara has its own sound and appearance, with the different makers employing their own production methods and decorating techniques. Besides standard-sized fujaras, there are also mini-fujaras and double fujaras.

Fujara music is notable for its deep tones emitted by its lower register and for very high overtones made possible by the length of the instrument. The melancholic and rhythmic music varies according to the content of the



Each fujara is unique



A fujara made by Ladislav Libica (born in Bravčovo in 1940, died in Brezno in 2013) from the collections of the Podpolianske Museum in Detva

accompanying songs, relating as they do to the life and work of shepherds. Fujara players traditionally intersperse their playing with singing. The musical repertoire is based on melodies limited by the instrument's technical properties and on sounds imitative of nature.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the fujara was increasingly played outside of pastoral contexts. Through its appearance at various festivals, fujara music became more widely recognised and popularised among professional musicians. It has featured in the works of Slovak composers such as Svetozár Stračina.

The fujara has a unique place in music and traditional artistic culture. Each instrument's specific musical repertoire bears the imprint of the sui generis qualities of its maker and player. Thus, the instrument's sonic and technical properties have been reflected in the vocal repertoire of the region in which it originated: Podpoľanie.

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