



## *Portrait*

Every year when our band plays at the local beer tent in our home village, the tent is overcrowded. The brass band of Niederaudorf (registered association) is famous for its genuine mood music. The audience of the regional music festival voted our musicians as the most popular beer tent band.

It is amazing that a tiny village such as Niederaudorf has a band of fifty musicians. At all times the band is an inherent part of our community. Young and the young at heart play in good comradeship - often fathers play next to their sons. Currently we have nearly ten young girls and boys training in order to join our band. With the aid of our own music development association we have been able to buy new instruments and finance the education of our upcoming musicians.

In November 1934 twelve residents of Niederaudorf met at the guesthouse Waller in Reisach and established the brass band. From the start the band made it their business to play at church and secular celebrations. Nowadays the band accompanies the processions at Palm Sunday, Corpus Christi also the Scapular and the Guardian Angel Ceremony and the traditional Ride for St. Leonhard.

From classic to modern - at our annual concert (called Josefikonzert) the musicians provide a sample of their skills. Friends of traditional music may enjoy the yearly festival in the picturesque inner courtyard of the old monastery Reisach - a highlight in the local calendar of events. The active music year also means many performances at our weekly concerts for visitors and locals, at traditional costume festivals and anniversaries. The band relaxes during their autumn excursion with sport or culture.

You can find the latest news, photos and videos of our band at:

[www.musikkapelle-niederaudorf.de](http://www.musikkapelle-niederaudorf.de)

(Text A. Hartmann, U. Brunner)



## *Chronicle*

The wish to establish a brass band in Niederaudorf (Bavaria) arose in 1923. Sadly, the negative effects of inflation made the necessary acquisition of instruments impossible. Joseph Böhm introduced the idea of a brass band in Niederaudorf to the people of Niederaudorf and its community in 1934 and found favour amongst the people living in the town. Blacksmith Michael Gruber called a meeting to establish the brass band on the 14<sup>th</sup> November of 1934 at the local pub Waller Reisach (near monastery Reisach).

Twelve persons are recorded as founder members. Each member spent 15 Marks to buy the first instruments and paid 30 pennies as a fee to learn an instrument. This was a lot of money in these times! The members, the community and benefactors donated the necessary amount (726 Marks) to buy the first instruments in Munich.

The band practiced twice a week (on Tuesday and Friday) in the home of master joiner Josef Kurz, who was the first bandmaster. The first public performance was at the procession of Corpus Christi. The members had to be equipped with unitary traditional costumes and they had learned four procession marches, two secular marches and some barn dances for after the celebration. They also had practiced to march and the bandleader was confident enough to appear before the public.

Fifteen young musicians joined the band in the year 1936 to avoid the military draft to the German Armed Forces. The Second World War took its toll and some band members died or went missing.

Martin Schäffler, who joined the band in 1939, became leader of the band in the time of the post-war confusion (1945). He led the band with a lot of enthusiasm and popularized the band across the frontiers of our homeland.

(Text: A. Lotter)