

# THE WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT OF THE BANDONION

To play bandonion and concertina became very popular in the quickly growing German working-class. Not so much for political or ideological reasons, but rather as a way of friendly socialisation and free-time activity. It started around 1895, and after a few decades there were more than 30 000 players in 1200 bandonion and concertina clubs all over Germany, particularly in the heavy industrialised areas. They often visited each other and had common concerts and arrangements. There were also popular bandonion and concertina magazines and yearbooks.

This led to an abundance of instrument makers and musical shops. A special notation system that did not require the ability to play from ordinary musical notation, but used the numbers and signs inscribed above the buttons of the instrument was developed. Each player often copied such special sheets by hand to make his own collection of sheets. It also led to many instruments with slightly different layouts, so in the 1920's commissions had to define "*Einheitsbandonion*" (144 tones) and "*Einheits-concertina*" (124 tones). These were different from the already existing "*Rheinische Tonlage*" of the 142-tone bandoneon successfully exported to South America.

Bandonion and concertina clubs were outlawed during The Third Reich, when the piano accordion was hailed as a German national instrument. After the war the movement never really recovered, one reason probably being the cumbersome notation system that made it very difficult for an ambitious player to improve in skills and repertoire.

# IL MOVIMENTO OPERAIO DEL BANDONION

Suonare il bandonion e la concertina divenne un grande interesse per la classe di lavoro tedesca in rapida crescita. Non tanto per ragioni politiche o ideologiche, quanto piuttosto come un modo di socializzazione amichevole e di attività del tempo libero. Iniziò intorno al 1895 e dopo alcuni decenni c'erano più di 30 000 giocatori in 1200 club di bandonion e concertina in tutta la Germania, in particolare nelle aree industriali pesanti. Spesso si visitavano a vicenda e avevano concerti e arrangiamenti comuni. C'erano anche popolari riviste e annuari di bandonion e concertina.

Ciò ha portato a un'abbondanza di costruttori di strumenti e negozi musicali. È stato sviluppato uno speciale sistema di notazione che non richiedeva la capacità di suonare da spartiti ordinari, ma utilizzava i numeri e i segni iscritti sopra i bottoni dello strumento. Ogni giocatore spesso copiava questi fogli speciali a mano per creare la propria collezione di fogli. Ha anche portato a molti strumenti con layout leggermente diversi, quindi nel 1920 le commissioni hanno dovuto definire "*Einheits-bandonion*" (144 toni) e "*Einheits-concertina*" (124 toni). Questi erano diversi dal già esistente "*Rheinische Tonlage*" del bandoneon a 142 toni esportato con successo in Sud America.

I club di bandonion e concertina furono messi fuori legge durante il Terzo Reich, quando la pianoakkordion fu salutata come strumento nazionale tedesco. Dopo la guerra il movimento non si riprese mai veramente, una ragione probabilmente era l'ingombrante sistema di notazione che rendeva molto difficile per un giocatore ambizioso migliorare le abilità e il repertorio.



Workers make music for workers. Choirs, mandolin orchestras and shawm bands are well known. The very popular bandonion and concertina orchestras have largely fallen into oblivion. The book provides an overview of the origin, development and decline of a 100-year history of the club, which in principle had survived two world wars and Hitler's Germany, but after the Second World War largely "out of date".

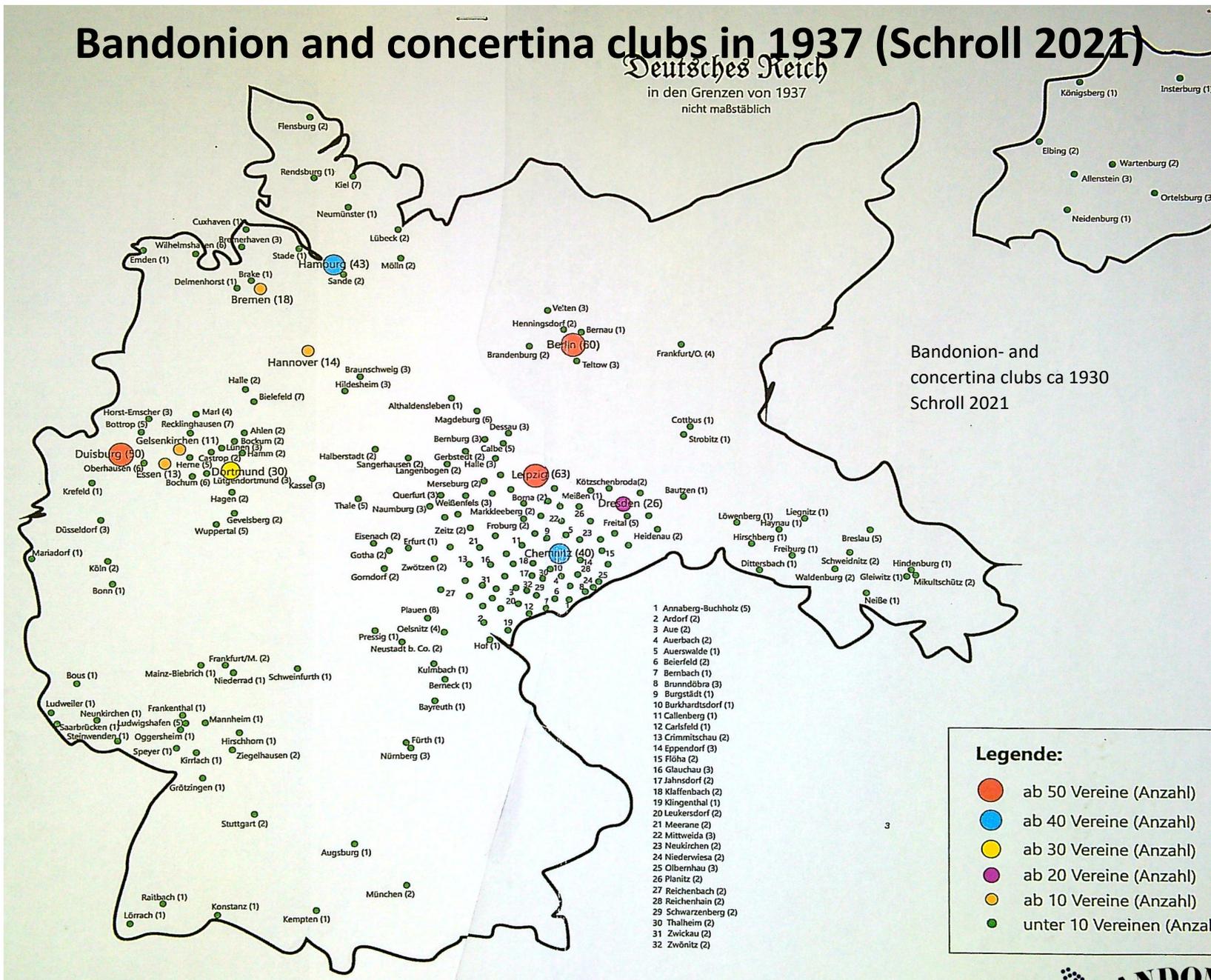
I lavoratori fanno musica per i lavoratori. Ben noti sono cori, orchestre di mandolino, cappelle shalmei. Le orchestre molto popolari Bandonion e Konzertina sono state in gran parte dimenticate. Il libro fornisce una panoramica dell'origine, dello sviluppo e del declino di una storia di club di 100 anni, che in linea di principio era sopravvissuta a due guerre mondiali e alla Germania di Hitler, ma dopo la 2a guerra mondiale in gran parte cadde "fuori dal tempo".

# Bandonion and concertina clubs in 1937 (Schroll 2021)

Deutsches Reich

in den Grenzen von 1937  
nicht maßstäblich

Bandonion- and  
concertina clubs ca 1930  
Schroll 2021

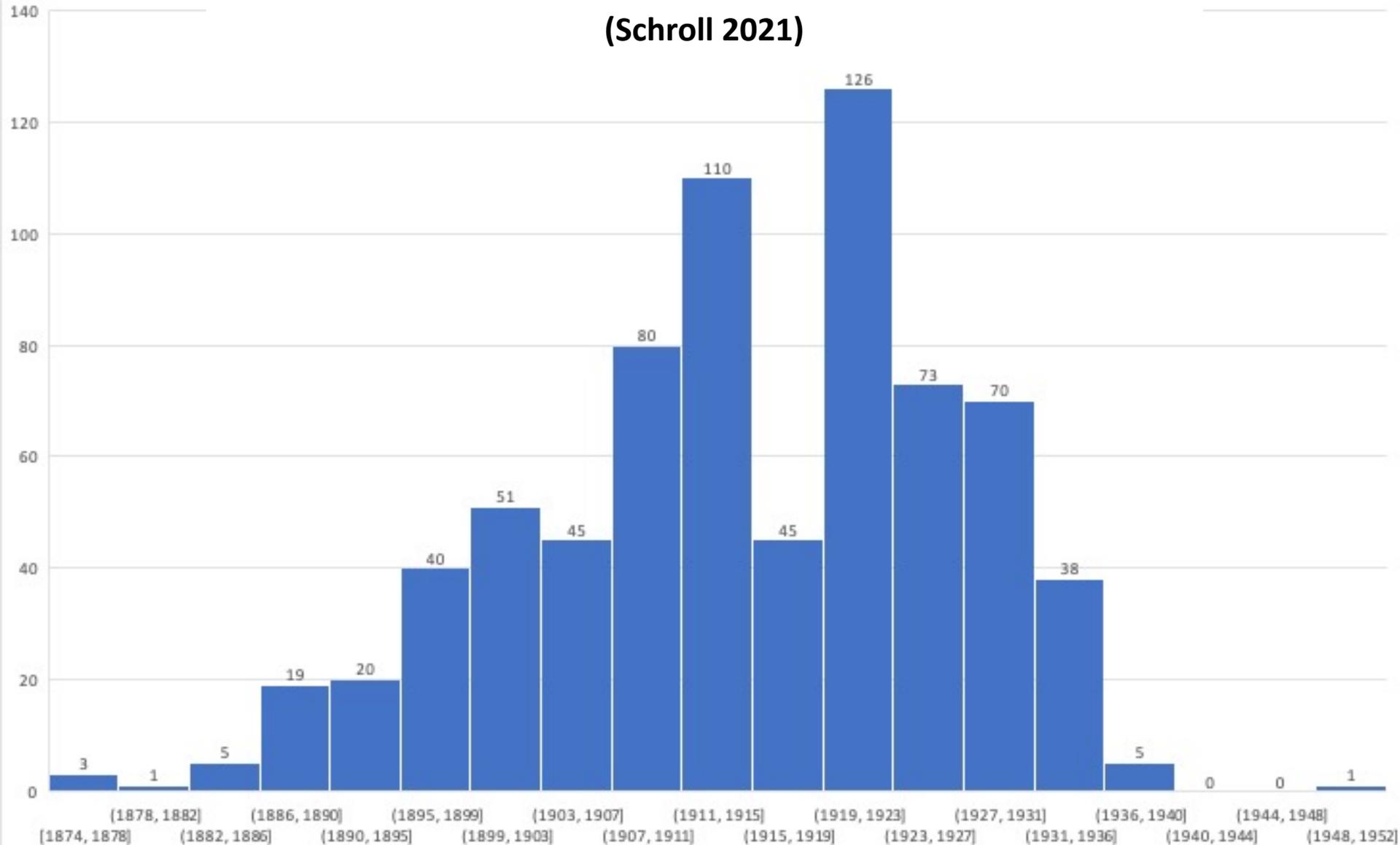


- 1 Annaberg-Buchholz (5)
- 2 Amdorf (2)
- 3 Aue (2)
- 4 Auerbach (2)
- 5 Auerswalde (1)
- 6 Beierfeld (2)
- 7 Bernbach (1)
- 8 Brunnödra (3)
- 9 Burgstädt (1)
- 10 Burkhardtsdorf (1)
- 11 Callenberg (1)
- 12 Carlsfeld (1)
- 13 Crimmitschau (2)
- 14 Eppendorf (3)
- 15 Föha (2)
- 16 Glauchau (3)
- 17 Jahnsdorf (2)
- 18 Klaffenbach (2)
- 19 Klingenthal (1)
- 20 Leukersdorf (2)
- 21 Meerane (2)
- 22 Mittweida (3)
- 23 Neukirchen (2)
- 24 Niederwiesa (2)
- 25 Olbernhau (3)
- 26 Planitz (2)
- 27 Reichenbach (2)
- 28 Reichenhain (2)
- 29 Schwarzenberg (2)
- 30 Thalheim (2)
- 31 Zwickau (2)
- 32 Zwönitz (2)

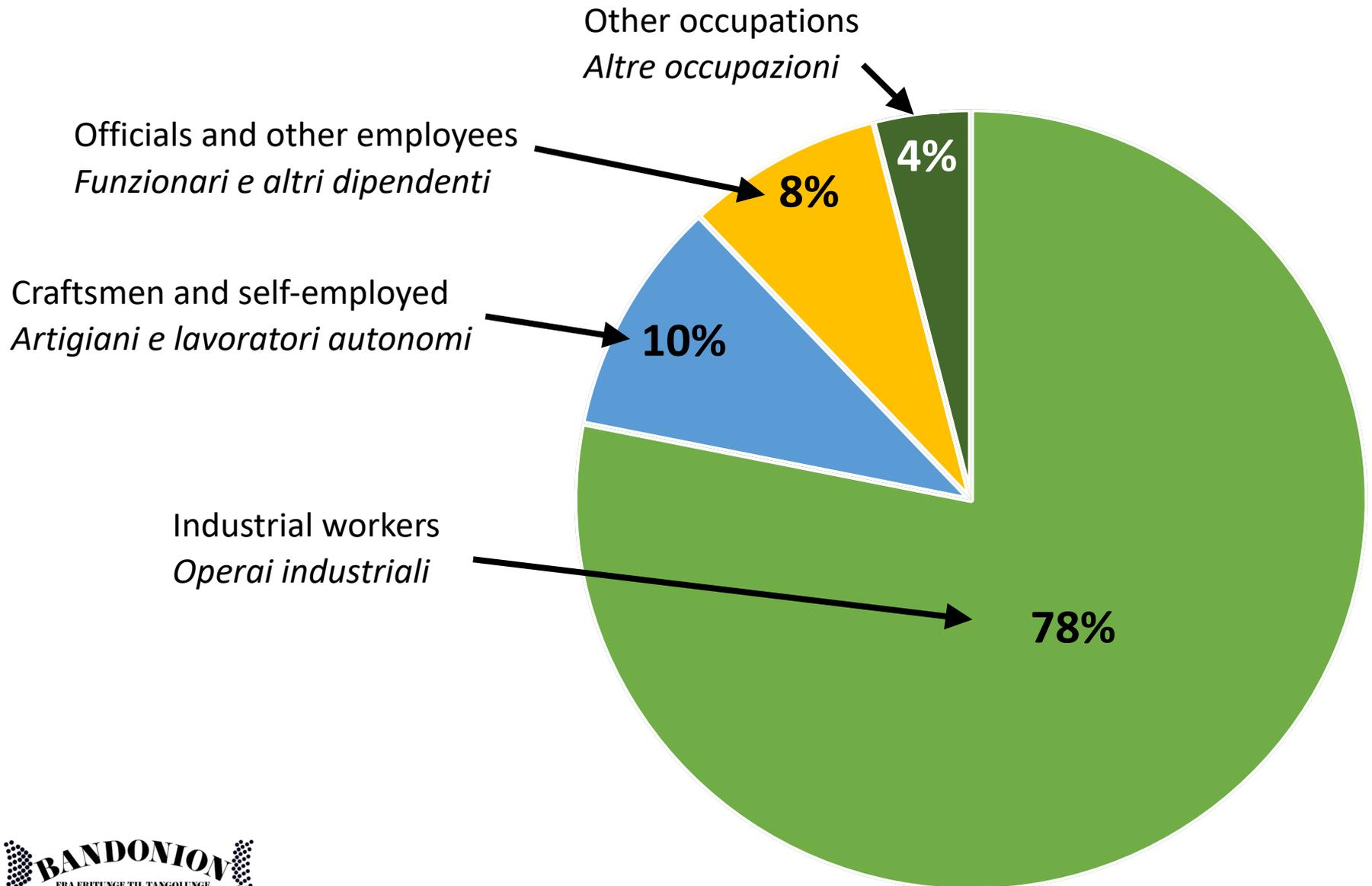
**Legende:**

- ab 50 Vereine (Anzahl)
- ab 40 Vereine (Anzahl)
- ab 30 Vereine (Anzahl)
- ab 20 Vereine (Anzahl)
- ab 10 Vereine (Anzahl)
- unter 10 Vereinen (Anzahl)

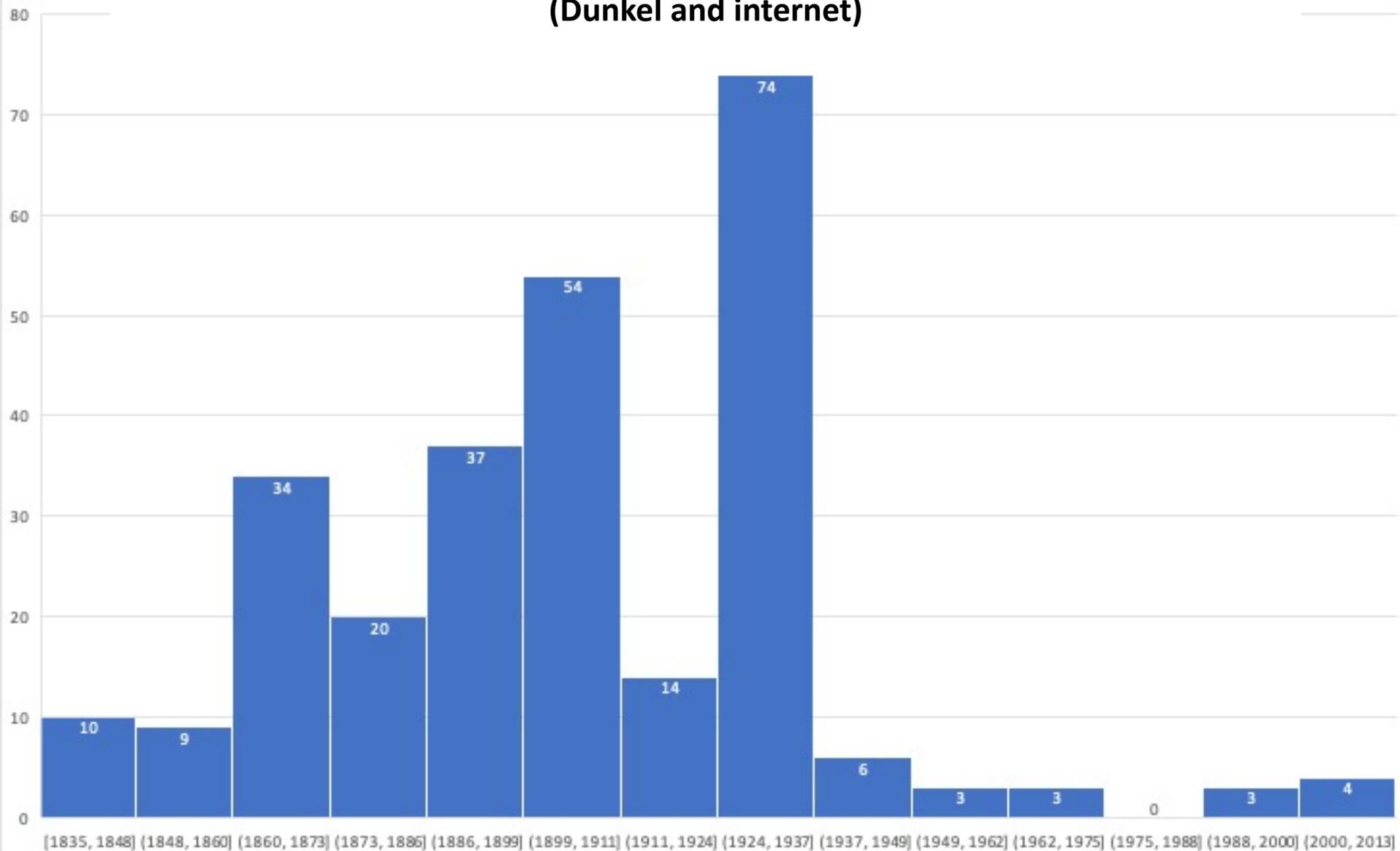
# New bandonion and concertina clubs (Schroll 2021)



# Members of bandonion and concertina clubs (Schroll 2021)



# New bandonion and concertina builders in Germany (Dunkel and internet)



# Berliner = Luft. Marsch r. Linke.

21

The image shows a handwritten musical score for a German concertina piece titled "Berliner = Luft. Marsch r. Linke." The score is written on aged, yellowed paper and consists of six staves of music. Above the staves, there are handwritten numbers and symbols indicating fingerings and articulation. The notation includes notes with stems and beams, rests, and dynamic markings such as "ff.", "p.", and "f.". The score is written in 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music is written in a single system with six staves. The notation is a form of shorthand used for German concertina, where notes are represented by numbers and stems, and fingerings are indicated by numbers above the notes. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. There are various dynamic markings and articulation symbols throughout the piece. The paper shows signs of age, including creases and discoloration.

Notation system for German concertina

# 17 Czech immigrants with Lange-Uhlig concertinas, Chicago 1893

## 17 immigrati Chzech con concertine Lange-Uhlig, Chicago 1893



SCHWAB'S STUDIO, 547 S. WALSTED ST., CHICAGO.

Ant. Mráz, J. Koberný, Jos. Kolář, Mir. Korběl, Fr. Suchy, Ant. Liska, Ed. Vopat, Vác. Fergl. ředitel, Fr. Flusek, T. Košťatka, Jos. Novotný, Alois Kalčík, J. Maur, Fr. Křístka, Jiří Pelnař, Jos. Hora, Fr. Šlauf.

První Česko-Americký Bando-Concertina Klub v Chicago, Ill. založen dne 6. února 1893.

# Blumenthal Bandonion Club

