

# Basic Detail Report

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## Chemnitzer concertina, C

### Date

1927 ca.

### Primary Maker

Vitak-Elsnic Company

### Description

Large square-shaped concertina with chamfered corners of Chemnitzer style with a 102-key system (quadruple-reed). Darkwood veneered case painted in black with golden-color lacquer applied overall, and abalone shell inlay work. Fifteen-fold bellows, arranged in groups of five-fold with two middle-frames. Bellows in black leather with metallic green paper, and nickel-silver protective staves and corners. Treble side has 28 buttons, and bass side has 23 buttons. Round wooden buttons covered in white celluloid material and flat pearl tops, arranged in arched rows. Hi-Lo switch lever, and air valve key on treble side. Bass sound box. The "Pearl Queen" chemnitzer concertinas were one of the mainstays of German-Polish-Czech-American music scene from the 1920s to the 1960s. The brand was manufactured for retailers (Otto) Georgi & (Louis) Vitak, and later, for (Louis) Vitak & (Joseph) Elsnic Company. Most of the American-made instruments were made in Chicago by Otto A. Schlicht (1873-1938) and his associates. Concertinas with abalone shell finish were high-end professional instruments. This particular example was also tuned by John Vicevich (1878-1943), who worked for Vitak-Elsnic.

### Dimensions

Overall footprint (with bellows closed): - length: 420mm - height: 240mm - depth: 280mm