1. **ŠIMON**

**Ladies and gentlemen, Let us introduce our presentation called Treasures of the Lower Spiš concentrated on folk traditions.**

**GELNICA** is a small district town in eastern Slovakia, founded in 1264 by Bela IV. as a royal mining town. Nowadays there are about 7000 inhabitants. Gelnica has a newly created folk group as a part of an art school, folk group for adults called Gelničanka and and a small art school orchestra.

ART SCHOOL Folk group has existed only for 2 years, by Mr Lukáš Mackovjak. They present music and dances from nearby villages.

Gelničanka – you can hear these pensioners singing and dancing at every event in Gelnica.

Art school orchestra present masterpieces by famous composers.

**MARGECANY**

**Village of cultural and transport importance. People strongly keep to their traditions there. You can see folk groups there: Jadlovec, Jaklovček and Margarétka.**

*JADLOVEC*

This folk group has been existing since 1976 originally as only women´s singing group. Now there are over 50 active members of different ages. They perform dances, songs, customs and traditions specially from village Margecany.The group has taken part in many folk festivals and competitions in Slovakia and abroad. In August 2018 they won the second place at National folk competition in Zuberec. Since 2010 they have been organizing a special event called Margecianske Fajnoty as a festival of food and culture lovers. They present typical cuisine from Spiš region- they bake potato cakes and also foreigners prepare international meals.

*JADLOVČEK*

Children´s folk group was founded in 1983 by Mrs Marta Foglárová as closely connected with Jadlovec group. Jadlovček is very successful- they have won many awards and been on TV many times. They are best known for their impressive scene bands . There are about 80 members nowadays . They have visited Poland, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Latvia, Macedonia, Serbia, Germany , the Ukraine and Holland.

*Margarétka*

This is a folk grop for the smallest children in Margecany consisting od about 20 kindergarten children created by Mária Uličná, today lead by Terka Ondášová and performing at various festivals.

**PRAKOVCE-**

A village near Gelnica, firstly mentioned in 1368 as an important iron industry centre. The village has a stong cultural elements like Prakovčanka- a brass band, Folk cimbalom music band, Shining stars - world known majorettes and children´s folk group Vánok.

1. **KIKA**

**ŽAKAROVCE**  wasfirstly mentioned in 1336 as an important mining village. There you can find a folk group KLIPERČAN found in 1972 as a group consisting of people of different ages. They perform dances and songs connected with the life of miners and shepherds like birth, wedding, funeral, Christmas or Easter.

Janka Guzová was a very famous and important person of this village. She was a singer and a radio reporter in the past. She collected 900 folk songs from Spiš, Šariš and Zemplin regions. During communism she was forbidden to sing, so she emmigrated to the USA for 24 years and died in New York.

**JAKLOVCE**

Village lies in the Hnilec Valley near Ružín Dam. There you can have an experience with these groups: ČERVENÁ CHUSTEČKA – folk group for adults.

SAŠINA- folk group for young people, started to exist 2 years ago presenting traditions from Jaklovce. This year they represented their village at international festival in Prague.

Amateur theatre of J. G. Tajovský was celebrating 95 years of existence and performing various plays by best known writers.

1. **Mário**

**VEĽKÝ FOLKMAR** lies in a beautiful area of the Slovenské Rudohorie mountains . It was Firstly mentioned in 1336 as Villa Volkmari. The village has rich culture and traditions.

* FOLKMARČANKA I. – a folk group by Zuzana and Mária Petkáčová.
* FOLKMARČANKA II. – a folk group by Anna Kleinová
* MATIČIAR – a folk group
* ZORNIČKA- children´s folk group

These groups pay attention to traditions at Christmas, St Lucia Day, Easter, St Andrew Day and spring.

**KOJŠOV**

Founded in 1368, lies in a beautiful countryside under Kojšovská Hill.

This village was important for agriculture industry in the past like sheep, cattle breeding, wood cutting, canvas and carpet making, embroidering. Within the village there are these groups.

* JEDLINKA- it is a children´s folk group – founded in 1997
* KOJŠOVAN is a folk group for adults 1958 – i tis 60 years now- they present traditions and customs from Christmas, Spring, Pentecost, work in the fields, harvest weddings, birth of children.
* KOJŠOVJAN is a folk music band

Kojšov is well known for Kojšovká heligónka- it is an annual festival of accordion players.

1. **Jennifer**

**MNIŠEK NAD HNILCOM:** The first written mention of the village dates back to 1255 when it was called Heremitory after the monks working there. The village was known for mining and cable making.

Posaunenchor:-a brass band was founded in between 1934-1941.

**ŠVEDLÁR:** The earliest written mention of the territory of the village of Švedlár dates back to 1243, so it is one of the oldest villages in the Hnilec Valley. Mining industry and agriculture were supported by Hungarian monarchs there.

The village also has some cultural facilities like a brass band Švedlárčanka and a German group.

Švedlarčanka: Brass music was founded by the local people in 1984. Among the most prestigious musicians' performances ranks the annual participation in the holy midnight mass in the local church.

Karpatsko nemecký spolok- Carpathian German group: There are 139 members there. They keep and develop their cultural heritage in their original language- German. Since the foundation of the German group they have been associated with culture and traditions of important holidays in the year like Carnival, Mother's Day, Children's Day, Pentecost, Saint Nicholas´ Day.