

ABSTRACT

The main point of this thesis is the Czech popular music focused on song writing in the period from the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state to the end of World War II. The first Czechoslovak Republic was an era of intense cultural and social flourishing. Following that, the thesis explores how social influences and preference, current events, and last but not least, tendencies towards patriotic expressions impacted song writing at that time. Attention is given to genres of mass-produced popular music, referred to at the time as "hits" („šlágry“ in Czech) whose contemporary role was to comment on current events and reflect on the societal atmosphere. Despite the challenging period of the Protectorate, patriotic themes persisted, and songs became an important tool of moral resistance against fascism. The icon of Czech musical life of this period is undoubtedly Karel Hašler. His work reflected national pride and determination during dramatic events. The thesis attempts to outline an analysis of Hašler's songs in the context of the contemporary development. One important aim of the entire thesis is to incorporate this topic into the education process of music lessons. Another aspect is to contribute to a broader understanding of historical circumstances and the importance of popular music as a mirror of the time. Because of the requirements for music education, it was crucial to develop lesson plans in line with an activity-based approach. However, the topic of the thesis is interdisciplinary and can serve as inspiration not only for music teachers but also in other subjects.

KEYWORDS

songs, pop music, mass-produced genres, patriotism, interwar culture, culture in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, Karel Hašler, social reflection, music education