

## **ABSTRACT**

The presented bachelor's thesis thoroughly explores Christmas and German Christmas carols, providing a comprehensive view of these holiday themes. The text examines not only the historical and religious context of Christmas but also focuses on its evolution from a pagan holiday to a Christian celebration. It thoroughly describes the customs, traditions, and symbols associated with Christmas, emphasising their historical origins and gradual development. Another important aspect of this work is the analysis of the origins and evolution of Christmas songs, carols, which have become an integral part of Christmas celebrations. The text seeks to understand the factors and events that influenced the development of these carols, particularly in Germany from the 16th to the 19th century. In the practical part of the work, selected German Christmas songs are analysed, including their history, cultural context, and significance. Among the examined carols highlighted in the text are well-known songs such as "Als Jesus Christ geboren ward", "Vom Himmel hoch, o Englein kommt", "Ich steh' an deiner Krippe hier", "Es kam die gnadenvolle Nacht", "O Tannenbaum", "Stille Nacht", and "Kommet, ihr Hirten". These songs have a rich history and are an integral part of the Christmas heritage in Germany, each being unique in form, themes, or origin.