

Abstract

The bachelor thesis deals with music and identity in the Taiwanese community in the Czech Republic. From the position of an insider, it describes how local Taiwanese perceive their cultural identity, to what extent they practice or preserve cultural practices of their homeland and the role music plays in it. It also describes their attitude to Czech and global music production and to the local cultural and sound environment. Last but not least, it illustrates the role of music as a means of understanding and cultural exchange between Taiwanese community and Czech society.

An anonymised questionnaire, semi-structured interviews and observation of Taiwanese cultural event were used to address the issue. The research relates to the current scholarly discourse on Taiwanese diasporic identities and diasporas in general. It draws primarily on Czech and foreign literature of musicological background focusing on music and identity, but also on literature with focus on psychology, diplomacy, media studies and sound studies, among others.

Based on the conducted research, the thesis concludes that the identity of local Taiwanese is shaped both by the preservation of their own Taiwanese culture, which is given great importance by the community, and by interaction with the Czech environment, which determines the degree of its preservation and affects it by its own cultural influences. In the case of local Taiwanese, we can thus speak of a cultural identity which is hybrid and consists of diverse Taiwanese features and new elements coming from both local and global cultures. The thesis introduces local Taiwanese community and contributes to a deeper understanding of Taiwanese cultural identity in the Czech Republic.

Keywords

Music, identity, Taiwanese, Czech Republic, transnational community