

Abstract

Dissertation “Myths of the Czech Music Alternative in the 1980s“ presents an anthropological view of the phenomenon of a parallel culture in a limiting situation. On the basis of biographical narratives, additional interviews and data gained from other types of sources, “myths“ are constructed for seven major figures of the Czech alternative scene. This is an insider’s ethnomusicological interpretation, based on Mircea Eliade’s and Bronislaw Malinowski’s concepts of myth as recurrent and exemplary models of behavior. The described personalities, Jazz Section (Prometheus), Miroslav Wanek (“hero’s journey“), Karel Babuljak (“search for paradise lost“), Pavel Zajíček (Odysseus), Mikoláš Chadima („Rebel“), Oldřich Janota (Hermes), and Marka Míková (Psyche), represent some of the main trends in creative processes of the Czech music alternative scene with myth being used as a metaphor. The metaphor is understood here in the terms of Timothy Rice, i.e. as an organization principle of our thinking, as well as an illuminating image.