

INTRODUCTION

Two years ago, Náměšť nad Oslavou hosted the first international colloquy focused on the transformation of folk music into contemporary genres. It opened the theme not only from the point of view of scholars, but also journalists, music critics, and practicing musicians. The Czech-English anthology of the presented papers was published by the Municipal Cultural Centre in Náměšť nad Oslavou in 2003. The second colloquy took place in Náměšť nad Oslavou in July 2005, as part of the Folk Holidays Festival again, and with the generous support of the Visegrad Fund. Its theme was From the East to the West and from the West to the East.

The coming together of influences and inspirations of various music genres and activities that are rooted in folk tradition, despite geographical and other barriers, may serve as a parallel for the business development and the media market focused on music. The colloquy attendees did not look for definitions; they presented a mosaic of views and approaches as a reaction to a broad field of studies both in folklore tradition and various expressions rooted in it.

Dedicated to Drahomíra Schmidtová.