

## Introduction

The music colloquy in Náměšť nad Oslavou is gradually becoming tradition. Although the presented topics differ, the various forms of folk music and their influence on popular music will certainly be explored. The theme of 2007 - My Heart is in the Lowlands - has addressed the present musicians, publicists and scholars to various degrees. They spoke about mountains and highlands, and about tough lives which influence the origin of a gong or a musical instrument, about outstanding musicians and composers who were shaped by their native home, and about the differences between the East and the West, and the North and the South. They found the common features of isolation of mountains and lowlands and even deserts, as well as the quality of narration in an authentic experience.

The 2007 colloquy had its international component not only in the presented papers, but also in the afternoon open forums: the members of the Italian Nidi d' Arac joined the debate, as well as Zuzana Novak, a British native with Czech roots and some experience with Zimbabwe.

The town of Náměšť nad Oslavou is located in the Czech-Moravian Highlands; the poem presented at the opening of the colloquy celebrated a distant highland made famous by Scottish Romantic author Robert Burns. Although nobody presented Burns's work at the colloquy, it is sure that they all would concur with his words:

"My heart is in the Highlands, not here,  
My heart is in the Highlands, whenever I go."