

Introduction

The colloquies in Náměšť nad Oslavou have regularly touched one broad theme – music – but each time this has been handled from a different point of view. In 2008, the theme **Searching for Roots: a Journey Uninterrupted** inspired the present speakers to think about the past, present and future, especially in the connection with music and the search for identity.

The fifth colloquy presented both the views of the insiders and the knowledgeable outsiders on music, from scholars, musicians, music editors, and publicists. The papers ranged from highly professional studies with new facts and views, to philosophical essays. As to the local scene, the Czech and Moravian folk music and a unique Czech genre called tramping music were discussed; considering Africa, America, Asia, and Europe, it concerned both the original music in its unspoiled form, and as melted into world music. It is natural for Czechs, that they, sometimes too easily, comment on any music of the world in details; nevertheless, it is rare and rewarding to meet an American who provides details about the Czech and Moravian cimbalom music, as it happened in Náměšť.

The colloquy also opened the theme of the media and their role in preserving folk culture (usually the examples of CDs, documentary films, and radio programmes). Surprisingly, the role of the recently introduced term world music was questioned as well.

In the afternoons, the Náměšť colloquies are extended into forums with the guests of the Folk Holiday festival. In 2008, two Americans discussed their music experiences: David Evans, a respected ethnomusicologist and specialist in the Southern Blues, and Tim Eriksen, a young musician who promotes a unique form of church singing in the tradition of shape notes.