

The traditional music of the Sámi, who inhabit the northernmost areas of Scandinavia and the Kola peninsula, is a cultural heritage of ancient origin. The Sámi musical tradition is represented especially by the yoik, which is a predominantly vocal music form without any instrumental accompaniment. The unique way of voice modulation gives the yoik its specific character and it is, in the opinion of the Sámi, the crucial feature distinguishing the yoik from other musical forms. However, style and structure of the yoik differ region by region, in a similar manner in which the various Sámi languages and dialects differ from each other. The purpose of this master thesis is to introduce the tradition of the Sámi yoik in the Central European environment, where it is still relatively unknown. The paper focuses on the musical aspects of the yoik. The core of the paper is based on the original transcription of 22 selected yoik recordings, which were made between 1961 and 1963 in the Finnish Lapland. The paper aims at characterising the yoik melodic lines in terms of its tonal substance and melodic line. It also focuses on characterising the rhythmic aspects of the yoik and briefly discusses the musical forms typical for this music genre. In addition, the paper contains an overview of the past and present academic research on the Sámi music and summarises the issue of regional differences in the yoik styles.