

## Abstract

The objective of the dissertation is a detailed study of the interactions between music and ethnic identity of a selected ethnic group – African Americans during several historical periods, and the use of information obtained from literary sources as research starting point for fieldwork. The main research question is: *Music and its role in the formation of an African American ethnic identity today.*

The introductory chapters of the dissertation give an overview of basic concepts and theories and briefly clarify the terms African Americans, African American music, and ethnic identity in terms of their interconnection.

The main part of the theoretical part of the study focuses on the role of music in the process of an African American ethnic identity formation and is divided into five chapters, each of which discusses interactions between music and ethnic identity in different historical periods, for example during slavery times in North America and the Reconstruction of the South, during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, or in the so-called post-soul era of the 1980s and 1990s.

The summary of the existing knowledge from literary sources serves as a theoretical basis for a two-month qualitative fieldwork research conducted in Chicago, USA in 2018. The relevant research data was gathered using the two main qualitative fieldwork methods of semi-structured interviews with selected respondents and non-participant observation. The research findings were subsequently translated into the Czech language and subjected to analysis and interpretation in accordance with the objective of the dissertation.

In the conclusion, all relevant knowledge of both parts of the study is summarized, and the main research question is further reflected. The dissertation includes appendices containing a timeline of the evolution of African American music and a translated transcription of semi-structured interviews.