

## ANNOTATION OF DISSERTATIONAL THESIS

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Name of thesis: *Word and music in Afroamerican spirituals - Spirituals in Their Contemporary Forms With a View to Interpretation and Pedagogical Utility*

Leader of the dissertational thesis: Prof. PaedDr. Michal Nedělka, Dr.

No. of symbols: 512 671

No. of attachments: 5 pieces in sheet music + 5 audio pieces (at one attached CD)

No. of literature items: 91

Keywords: Afroamerican spirituals, Afroamerican spiritual music, gospels/gospel songs, interpretation, pedagogical utility, slave, Christianity

The dissertation work deals with the topic of Afro-American spiritual songs especially spirituals. The first part deals with the evaluation and critical attitude to the accessible Czech and foreign literature. Next part shows the moments of progress of the Afro-American spiritual music. There is also a special part explaining the definitions of certain expressions and circumstances and conditions of the progress of those songs and their changing. The work also puts accent on their influence on other types and genres of music. Then the work also pays attention to important people who did a lot for the progress and recent form of spirituals. It also tries to provide the typology of afroamerican spiritual songs.

And then it tries to present the complex view of the spirituals and spiritual songs in logical connections.

The main topic of this work presents the beauty of those songs which comes out especially from the complex analysis. It deals especially with the details of the lyrics which are the base for other elements like melodic, rhythmical and harmonic disposal. The lyrics of those traditional songs seem to be very simple and uncomplicated at first sight but after a deeper understanding other aspects can be found like the biblical basis, deepness of the religion of the Afro-American slaves and also a never ending hope for a better future. The lyrics of course reflect a horrible deal of the slaves and their longing for freedom. The poetic of those lyrics is very specific - it often uses a wide scale of various symbols and other expressions. The gospels are very different from older spirituals they were created from in many aspects. Some elements indicating continuity with the spirituals are kept.

Correct understanding of the lyrics of spirituals and gospels is the key to their interpretation - another important part of my work deals with that problem. The last chapter of my work brings a couple of topics and ideas for teaching those songs in the classes of music at primary and secondary schools, it also gives suggestions how to avoid from possible mistakes and wiles.

The work reminds also the Czechs spiritual scene (gospel as well) and its progress.