

## **Summary**

The thesis *Fiddles – one of the major elements of Irish traditional music* deals with Irish traditional music with focus on musical instrument *fiddle* as a main element of Irish music and culture in general.

In the beginning Irish traditional music is discussed, its structure and musical instruments typical for Irish country. Furthermore, the string instrument is observed with emphasis put on its importance and role in Irish music, historical background, structure, style of playing and particular regions of Ireland for which the instrument is typical. In addition to that, schools of fiddle playing are introduced and formal and informal gatherings of musicians are present as well.

The constituent part of the thesis is an appendix consisting of pictures, photos and music sheets which are confirming facts about *fiddles* and Irish music in general. A compact disc is also attached, containing audio and audiovisual examples.

## **Key words**

*Fiddles*, Irish traditional music, *session*, musical instrument, style of playing, region, structure, teaching, festival, competition.