

The main topic of this dissertation is professional Czech music ensembles, namely string quartets. The work deals shortly with the development of Czech string tradition. Firstly, it examines music and repertoire of classicism, which was the period when the quartet music appeared for the first time and started to develop gradually. It introduces the first teachers of chamber music of conservatoires in both Prague and Brno, and their pupils who spread further this tradition. Moreover, the work tries to portray the differences between the situations in the two biggest centres, Prague and Brno. This work presents also the music life of 1900, and it predominantly provides some information on the music organisations at that time: Union for Chamber Music, Czech Association for Chamber Music or Juvenile Club. The most important ensembles of the first half of the twentieth century are introduced; among the discussed ones is The Czech Quartet, then The Sevcikovo-Lhotské The Heroldovo, The Ondrickovo and The Zikovo Quartet. The ensembles that were active during World War Two are also mentioned, as well as the contemporary ones.