

This thesis analyses transgenerational transmission of musical knowledge and skills, (i.e. methods of musical teaching and learning) in the community of Romani musicians in Klenovec and Kokava in Central Slovakia. The thesis questions widespread myth about innate musicality of Roma and suggests an alternative explanation for postulated musical excellence of Roma through differences in their musical education. In the first part of the thesis, the question of musical-talent heritability both in social and natural science is being discussed. It concludes that despite of long discussions and recent hints in the field of genetic, we cannot consider an inborn genetic component for Romani musicality. In the second part, theoretical differences in music-educational systems are discussed (Merriam, Van den Bos, Turino) and the majority's institutionalised system of musical education of the Czech Republic and Slovakia is presented. The third part is a comparison of the institutionalised system with traditional methods of musical learning and teaching inside musicians' community in Klenovec and Kokava. Specifics of these methods and their contribution to construction of Romani musicality are discussed. This part is based upon data collected during author's own ethnographic research (2013–2015). The final part of the thesis deals with current change of music-educational methods which Romani musicians in Klenovec and Kokava are nowadays experiencing.