Abstract

This thesis deals with the issue of public appearances of amateur rock bands in Prague after the introduction of the so-called „requlifications“ which basically destroyed professional rock music in Czechoslovakia. This affected especially the capital city which had witnessed an unprecedented rise of this genre only several years earlier. Thereafter, independent rock music could be practiced only as a hobby, and even the amateur musicians had to face extensive regulations and general mistrust. As a result, opportunities to appear in public were very sparse because organizers were worried about the consequences of such events. The research investigates the mechanisms and conditions for durable opportunities to play publicly in Prague before 1984. The effects of the article Nová vlna se starým obsahem – the pinnacle of the media and social campaign against new forms of rock music, were already becoming apparent in that year and the Union of musicians and its sections – main pillars of independent culture in Czechoslovakia – were dissolved. The conclusion is that in such difficult circumstances persistence, creativity and readiness to lose one’s job proved crucial qualities. They enabled people to overcome not only the regulations but mainly the concerns about sanctions for nonconformist appearance and the attention of the secret police.