

Abstract

The Bachelor's Thesis "Critical Responses of the Written and Musical Work of Vratislav Brabenec " analyses samizdat collections, Czechoslovak and foreign periodicals as well as internet articles reacting to the life's work and personality of this musician, poet and a representative of the Czechoslovak underground. The thesis starts by forming a biographical and historical context and briefly introducing other protagonists of the underground. It then explains the underground and dissent as well as the difference between these two terms.

The main body of the work is constituted by the compilation of the reception in the media of the writings, music and life of the artist. Furthermore, it captures the event of the 1976 trial that led to the imprisonment of Vratislav Brabenec, both from the point of view of his contemporaries, who were keeping letters in samizdat form, and the representatives of the StB, who led the case against the underground authors and wrote reports capturing the court proceedings. The author of this thesis then conducts research in both Czechoslovak and exile press and samizdat. An analysis of the content of the recovered materials brings out interesting differences between censored and free periodicals, including the views of underground representatives. This work thus also captures the consequences of Vratislav Brabenec's trial on the development of events in Czechoslovakia.