

This thesis is based on the catalogue of Czech social songbooks put together by the author in a form of a computer database for Department of Ethnomusicology, Ethnological Institute of Czech Academy of Sciences. Analysis of these songbooks is complemented by taking research conducted in the past by wide range of scholars (E. Meliš, B. Václavek, R. Smetana, M. Ošadlák, J. Plavec, V. Pletka, V. Karbusický, J. Kotek) into account. This provides basis for characterization of origin and development of Czech social singing in the first half of the 19th century including characteristics of its key personalities (A. J. Puchmajer, J. J. Ryba, V. J. Tomášek, V. Hanka, F. M. Kníže, A. Jelen, J. K. Chmelenský, F. Škroup, F. L. Jeřábek, F. J. Vacek Kamenický, J. K. Tyl, V. J. Písek a K. Havlíček Borovský) as well as characteristics of important publications (among others *Všec ze zpívání vlastenských*, 1835–39, 1843–44). Following section provides an overview of the century long tradition of Czech social songbooks (1848–1948); the founding importance of *Společenský zpěvník český* by J. B. Pichl (1851), later in musical cooperation with J. L. Zvonař (1863) is highlighted. In the last chapter author thoroughly discusses the principles of the computer catalogue of songbooks and possibilities of its future use for other types of songbooks (school, workers, folk music songbooks etc.). The list of social songbooks containing the most important data from the catalogue is presented in the appendix, together with an index, profiles of personalities and illustrations.