Music and revolution

Music plays a unique role in the theatre of revolutions. The simple language of revolutionary songs transmits effectively the desired interpretation of events. Their rhythm, melody and community singing help release emotions and trigger off the revolutionary spirit.

Music as a tool of a political propaganda

Music, primarily understood as an aesthetic experience or a form of entertainment, may serve as a perfect instrument for propaganda and its ends. The communist officials were well aware of its efficiency in transmitting the ideological message.

Music and repression

The ruling power in communist Czechoslovakia faced nonconformist music genres not only via imposed standards (qualifying examination), but also through repression. The reactions of the oppressed were various: the pursuit of loud music production (punk), using the loopholes in the system in place (Jazzova sekce, Jazz section), ignoring the ban (underground) or forming temporary independent zones (freetekno).

Music as a political protest

Music, whether it is a protest song or a classical piece, can be medium of a strong protest character. While in non-democratic regimes, including the socialist Czechoslovakia, musicians use hidden codes and encryption to express political dissent, in democracies they do it openly.

Music in contemporary political campaign

The fall of the communist regime changed the way in which the political power and those who strive for it use music for their ends. The medium carrying an ideological message turns into a mere ornament accompanying the political campaigns along with goulash, balloons and badges.