


# Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim

## DI GALITZYANER KLEZMORIM



"The double bass player plays a short tune,  
then the accordion enters  
and continues the sound,  
stretches it and stops,  
the heart grows  
as the longings of the whole world  
find their release in this music.

The clarinet joins in after a few chords,  
introducing the mood of wild, exalted joy. (...)  
Ecstatically joyful passages emanate subtle melancholy,  
like a wild, the most courageous dance  
on the top of a volcano. (...)"

"Messengers of music. Concert of Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim in Kolping Training Centre".  
Barbara Sagel, Donauwoerth 11.2004

## Galicja bliżej Europy

**GAlicJA. Klezmerzy klezmerzy nagrodzeni**  
**Krakowski zespół Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim został laureatem prestiżowej nagrody w dziedzinie kultury, przyznawanej corocznie przez Radę Europy.**

Jest ich sześć: młode małżeństwo Mariola i Grzegorz Spiewakowie, jedenastolatki Aleksandra i Marianna z Krakowa, oraz absolwent klasy kontrabas Rafał Seweryniak. Zespół istniejący od kilku lat, w maju 1998, podał sobie cel: być bliżej Europy. W tym celu wzięli udział w konkursie Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim, co w języku jidysz oznacza: „Chłopcy z Galicji”. Konkurs odbył się w październiku w siedzibie Akademii Sztuki w Warszawie. Złoty medal zdobył zespół Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim, kierowany przez Mariolę i Grzegorza Spiewaków. Nagrodę przyznano im za wybitny wkład do kultury żydowskiej i europejskiej.



Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim podczas obchodów Festiwalu Kultury Żydowskiej w Krakowie. Złoty medal zdobył zespół Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim, kierowany przez Mariolę i Grzegorza Spiewaków. Nagrodę przyznano im za wybitny wkład do kultury żydowskiej i europejskiej.

”Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim, the Jewish klezmer band from Cracow became the prize-winner of the prestigious cultural prize awarded each year by the Council of Europe.

(...) I could hardly believe it - says Rafal Seweryniak – when dr Ernst Seidel, one of the Secretaries of the Council of Europe informed me about that personally by phone. (...) The speech day took place in Basle, in the decorous interior of old assembly hall of a local university. (...) One of the laureates decorated with the Cross of Merit ”Pro Arte” was Sir Peter Ustinov, an actor, animator of culture, the man of great heart, (...) Sir Peter – says Mariola - despite the fact, that he was besieged by journalists and cameramen came to us behind the scenes, greeted us Good day in Polish and said few warm words about our music. We have really felt to be distinguished ones.”

”Galicja closer to Europe. Basle. The Cracow klezmers awarded a prize”.  
 Izabela Bobbé, Gazeta Wyborcza, Cracow 1999

The band in artistic creativity refers back to the tradition of Klezmer music. The musicians by personalising it entirely attempting in its own unique way to extract and underline only these features which are according to the artist the most important ones. Poetic and melancholic melodic interweaves with fervent and extatic spontainety creating the space filled up with the wide scale of colours and emotions. The classical and academic education cannot be omitted here as well. Virtuosity, the care for sound and detail in connection with great musical sensitivity give these compositions aesthetically refined shape. Apart from compositions based on original Klezmer melodies in the repertoire of Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim there are more and more their own pieces. Since 1998 the band has been made up of the following musicians:

- Mariola Spiewak** - clarinet,
- Grzegorz Spiewak** - accordion,
- Rafal Seweryniak** - double bass

Among the most important achievements of the band are the following:

- the representation of Poland on a concert entitled „Magic of One Evening” in Luxembourg commemorating the 1st anniversary of the extension of the European Union (each new country was represented by only three musical groups)
- the concert in celebration of the Polish Day on EXPO 2000 in Hanover
- the 1st prize in the "1st Chopin Open Competition for all instruments except the piano"

## Prizes



- **European Music Prize awarded by the Society for Culture Promotion by the European Economic Circles and the Foundation of the European Prizes (Basle, Old University Hall, December 1998)**
- **the first prize at "Chopin Open" - the 1st Chopin open competition for all instruments except the piano (Cracow, Academy of Drama and Theatre, June 1999)**

## Concerts



<b>Austria</b>	Bregenz:	Kuppelsaal of Vorarlberg Federal State Library	(March 2010)
		Siechenhaus	(May 2013)
	Drosendorf:	Buergerspital Arts Centre	(December 2008)
	Feldkirch:	Schattenburg, Rittersaal	(August 2016)
	Graz:	Stockwerk Club	(March 2006)
	Salzburg:	Chopin Days	(October 1999)
	Vienna:	the 8th KlezMORE-Festival Vienna - Wiener Metropol	(November 2011)
<b>Belgium</b>	Brussels:	the 3rd Days of Lesser Poland in Brussels. "Klezmer night"	(September 2009)



<b>Croatia</b>	Eupen:	"Summer in the City"	(July 2006)
	Czakovec:	"Summer into The Zrinski City"	(July 2009)
	Koprivnica:	Koprivnica Gallery	(August 2010)
		Concert with Croatian Chamber Philharmonic	(December 2011)
	Sisak:	Fran Lhotke Music School	(September 2010)
	Zagreb:	"The Week of Israel". The 1st - the 3rd "Open Air" Klezmer Festivals	(July 2007, September 2008, July 2009)
		the 140th anniversary of consecration of the synagogue	(September 2007)
		the 15th International Street Festival "cest is d'best zagreb". The 5th "Open Air" Klezmer Festival	(June 2011)
		Feast of Hanukkah. The Week of Israel 2011; the final concert with Croatian Chamber Philharmonic	(December 2011)
		The Week of Israel 2012; a concert with Croatian Chamber Philharmonic	(November 2012)
<b>France</b>	Grenoble:	concert on invitation of French-Polish Association	(June 2009)
	Lille:	Lille 2004. European Capital of the Culture	(May 2004)
		concert on invitation of Municipal authorities	(January 2006)
		concerts on invitation of Polish Consulate-General	(November 2006)
		Lyon:	"One Thousand Years of the History of Jews in Poland" - l'Espace Hillel
	Paris:	Jewish Culture Festival - l'Espace des Blancs Manteaux	(July 2004)
		d'Ile de France Festival	(September 2004)
		the 3rd Festival of the Jewish Cultures	(June 2007)
	Rennes:	"The Jewish Culture in Poland"	(June 2009)
	Saint-Bonnet-le-Château	Collégiale Esplanade Taillefer	(May 2013)
<b>Germany</b>	Berlin:	LabSaal Arts Centre	(January 2005)
		Supamolly Club	(June 2013)
	Bremen:	the 3rd Bremer Klezmerfest	(October 2005)
		"Best of Klezmerfest"	(October 2008)
		the 9th Bremer Klezmerfest - Opening concert	(October 2013)
		the 10th Bremer Klezmerfest	(October 2015)
	Chemnitz:	Arthur e.V. Club	(November 2004, 2007, 2008, 2011)
	Coburg:	Rueckert School Hall	(January 2005)

	Dueren:	Komm Arts Centre	(March 2006, November 2008)
	Duisburg:	Stute Wine & Sekt Club	(November 2007, July 2009)
	Emsdetten:	Stroetmanns Fabrik Arts Centre	(October 2009)
	Erfurt:	Small Synagogue	(September 1999)
		Jazzclub Erfurt e.V.	(November 2011)
	Essen:	Grillo Theatre	(June 2004)
		Old Synagogue	(June 2004)
		Kulturpfadfest Essen	(June 2013)
	Flensburg:	the 10th Yard Culture Festival of Flensburg	(August 2004)
	Hanover:	EXPO 2000 – the Main Stage	(June 2000)
	Helmbrechts:	"Jazz weekend: Klezmer ..." - Upper-Franconian Textile Museum	(November 2010)
	Heppenheim:	"Klezmer-Open-Air-Festival"	(June 2005)
	Hoyerswerda:	47. Musikfesttage Hoyerswerda in der Lausitz	(May 2012)
	Kronberg in Taunus:	the 7th Kronberger Kulturnacht - St. Peter and Paul Church	(October 2011)
	Leipzig:	Polish Institute	(May 2002)
		Concert on invitation of Mitteldeutscher Rundfunk	(January 2011)
	Magdeburg:	"Klezmermelodien aus Galizien" - Volksbad Buckau	(November 2011)
	Nuremberg:	The Blue Night 2003	(May 2003)
		Villa Leon Municipal Arts Centre	(November 2004)
	Ortenberg:	the 9th Festival "Altstadt Pur"	(June 2011)
	Ratingen:	Concert as part of the project "Trace of generations. From synagogue to Jewish prayer house in Bytom"	(November 2021)
	Waldshut-Tiengen:	Culture days: "Five centuries of Jewish life in Tiengen"	(November 2008)
	Warendorf:	132. Galeriekonzert	(September 2015)
	Wiesbaden:	Thalhaus Arts Centre	(March 2006)
	Wuppertal:	the 10th Klezmer Festival of Wuppertal	(November 2007)
		International Meeting Centre of Caritas	(March 2010)
<b>Hungary</b>	Budapest:	concert on invitation of Hungarian-Polish Association	(September 2007)
<b>Italy</b>	Trent:	Itinerari Folk 2011 Festival "Diaspore"	(July 2011)
<b>Lithuania</b>	Kaunas:	the 2nd Festival "Pax et Bonum"	(September 2008)
	Vilnius:	St. Michael Church	(August 2004)

		the 2nd Festival "Pax et Bonum"	(September 2008)
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Luxembourg:	the 1st anniversary of the extension of the European Union - Abbaye de Neumuenster Arts Centre	(May 2005)
<b>Netherlands</b>	Leiden:	"La France" - Théâtre du Parisien	(September 2009)
	Voerendaal:	15th anniversary of Mejoeches band and Cafe de Haas	(November 2009)
<b>Poland</b>	Bydgoszcz:	the 48th Bydgoszcz Music Festival. Concert with Pomeranian Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Adam Klocek	(September 2010)
	Cracow:	the 8th - the 14th Jewish Culture Festivals	(1998 - 2004)
		Feast of Lesser Poland - Maly Rynek Market Square	(June 2009)
		Honoring of the Righteous Among The Nations	(August 2013)
	Czestochowa:	Concerts with Czestochowa Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Justyna Maj and Adam Klocek	(May 2017, August 2018)
	Kalisz:	"Kalisia 18 ½" - 1850 years of the city. Concert with Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Adam Klocek	(June 2010)
		"(...). Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim in arrangements for orchestra" - concert with Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra	(February 2020)
	Kazimierz Dolny:	the 2nd Festival of the film and art "Two Riversides". The Days of Jewish Culture	(August 2008)
	Kielce:	"Completion of the carnival". Concert with Swietokrzyska Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra conducted by Adam Klocek	(February 2012)
	Krynica-Zdroj:	the 19th and 20th Economic Forum	(September 2009 and 2010)
	Poznan:	the 7th Christian-Jewish Dialogue Day celebrations - Nowy Theatre	(January 2004)
	Warsaw:	the 2nd European Day of Jewish Culture	(September 2003)
		Zelman and Rywka Nozyk Synagogue	(May 2006)
	Wroclaw:	the 4th Jewish Culture Meetings	(June 2002)
		the 23rd SIMCHA Jewish Culture Festival. "Mazl Tov" - the final concert	(August 2021)
<b>Spain</b>	Barcelona:	Bones Lletres Royal Academy	(May 2005)
	Girona:	Jewish History Museum	(May 2005)
<b>Sweden</b>	Stockholm:	Paideia's Month of the Arts 2005 - Nalen Club	(February 2005)
		Stallet Club	(March 2002, December 2003)
<b>Switzerland</b>	Basle:	European Music Prize awarding ceremony - Old University Hall	(December 1998)
	Lichtensteig:	Choessi Theatre	(December 2008)

## Recordings



### CD-s:



”**Ponad horyzont**” (Tylkomuzyka.pl, Cracow, November 2012)

For listening (*Dual dance, Harry's triumph*):

<https://myspace.com/digalitzyanerklezmerim/music/songs>



”**Nokh Amol**” (Tylkomuzyka.pl, Cracow, December 2003 and September 2004)

For listening (*Chopin's Freilach, Hasidic*):

<https://myspace.com/digalitzyanerklezmerim/music/songs>





**"Di Galitzyaner Klezmerim"** (Tylkomuzyka.pl, Cracow, June 2000 and 2004)

The CD review (in German): [www.klezmer.de/Platten/P\\_Tradition/T\\_Galicyjskie/t\\_galicyjskie.html](http://www.klezmer.de/Platten/P_Tradition/T_Galicyjskie/t_galicyjskie.html)



**"Balkan & Jewish Collection"** (Muza Polskie Nagrania, Warsaw, August 2013)

The compilation (2CD-s) of works by various artists, including our *Dual Dance*

## Radio and Television:

- life recording and participation in the film "Zwischen Krakau und Karpaten - Mit dem Zug durch Galizien" as part of the series "Länder - Menschen - Abenteuer" of NDR TV by Michael Höft, prod. Frederick Keunecke (March 2021)
- life recording for the program "Unterwegs bei Sachsens Nachbarn im Königlichen Krakau" of MDR TV by Martina Klemz, hosted by Beate Werner (November 2020)
- music for the film "Dybbuk Remix: Dancing Between Worlds" by Karen Goodman (2019)
- participation in "The Amazing Race", episode 27, the reality show on CBS by Phil Keoghan (Cracow, November 2015)
- music for a feature documentary by Yari & Cary Wolinsky, "Raise the Roof" (2015)
- music for Polish TV documentary film "Polish Hotel", written and directed by Kama Veymont (2009)
- composing and recording of the music for documentary film "My Thesis Harry" by Daniel B. Burns (Cracow, January 2008)
- life recording of the concert for Bavarian Radio (Coburg, January 2005)
- "Equinoxe" Programme of France Culture Radio (Paris, September 2004)
- "Lost Horizons" - Polish Season by Jean-Pierre Amann - a broadcast of ESPACE 2 Programme, Romansch Switzerland Radio (Cracow, November 2001)
- Polish TV documentary films: "Shalom Ash Festival in Kutno" (Lodz, November 2001), "The City of Three Cultures" (Wlodawa, November 1999), "The Landscape with Singer" (Cracow, May 1998)

## Grandioser Schlussakkord

Konzertreihe „Musik in alten Dorfkirchen“ endete mit begnadetem polnischen Klezmer-Trio

Mit dem Schlusskonzert in der Reihe „Musik in alten Dorfkirchen“ am Sonntagabend in der Kirche von Nordhofen hat die Klezmerinitiative Hans Taber ein musikalisches Glanzstück vollbracht. Die „Galtzyner Klezmerin“, ein Trio aus Polen, präsentierte beeindruckende und mitreißende Musik, die bewirkt hat, dass die Freunde dieses Genres einen Musikgenuss par excellence besaßen.

WESTERWALDREIZ. Die Klezmertruppe Hans Taber, die im letzten Jahr die Reihe „Musik in alten Dorfkirchen“ initiiert hat, hat mit dem letzten Teil „Die Galtzyner Klezmerin“ einen tollen Abschluss gesetzt. Die begnadeten Musiker, die ihrer Begeisterung und mit ihrer Interpretation weltweites Klezmermusik, aber auch mit polnischen Folklore und Eigenkompositionen begeisterten, präsentierten sich als Ensemble, das sich selbst nicht scheut, das szenische zu sein. Raff Sewerjak (Kornett), Mariola Spiewak (Klarinette) und nicht zuletzt die genialen Klavierspielerin Hanna Spiewak unterstützen bei jeder sympathischen Besetzung ihrer Auftritte ein fantastisches Teamwerk zueinander Klezmermusik.

Um Schindl von der Klezmermusik Hans Taber erreicht hat, die Bedeutung der Gäste in der gut gefüllten Nordhofener Kirche. Wie bescheiden heute eine Weltreise durch die Kulturszene. Eine Weltreise, die nur durch die Unterstützung unserer fleißigen Helfer und Sponsoren zu einem Erfolg werden konnte. Ein Erfolg, der mittlerweile die Dorfkirchen in der Region aus den Nischen platon lässt.

„Musik in alten Dorfkirchen“ hat Chancen und Stil mit sich in die anspruchsvollen Kulturszene im Westerwald etabliert.

Diesem Anspruch wurde „Die Galtzyner Klezmerin“ in Nordhofen nicht als gerecht. Die Kontrabassantenne erregte aus den untersten Tiefen die Klarinette zu eleganten Sentenzen, und im nächsten Augenblick hatten Bass und Akkordeon (der Interpret ist Weltmeister im Spiel auf diesem Instrument) die Klarinette zum Tanz. Aus dem Nichts eines wahnsinnigen Pianissimo erwuchs urplötzlich ekstatische Begleitung.

Mariola Spiewak entlockte der Klarinette alle Nuancen, die in diesem Instrument stecken. Man schätzte die Sentenzen, die sich im zweiten Jahr ihres Bestehens aufbauten. Das Quartett unseres Angebotes wird dem Niveau heutiger Konzerte in nichts nachstehen, wie die Ur-Schindl die Neugier der Freunde der Klezmermusik Hans Taber auf die kommenden Höhepunkte. Die Erfolge der jüngsten Veranstaltungen lassen sich befeuchten, dass die alten Dorfkirchen zu Kellern werden, die Sponsoren unterstützen die Veranstaltungskultur unserer Heimat. Die Klezmerpartys Westerwald, die Nordhofener Pfarrgemeinde mit dem Klezmerensemble sowie die Kulturkreis der Verbandsgemeinde helfen.

Das polnische Trio „Die Galtzyner Klezmerin“ macht das Abschlusskonzert der Reihe „Musik in alten Dorfkirchen“ in Nordhofen zu einem mitreißenden Erlebnis. (Hans-Peter Metternich)

Hans-Peter Metternich



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”(...) Inviting this masterly trio of soloists, whose fabulously congruous play evoked gasps of admiration from the audience, was an absolute hit.  
 (...) Mariola Spiewak demonstrated all the nuances of the clarinet: melancholic sighs as well as unhindered joy and terrible shrieks, the music both as soft as velvet and as sharp as the sword. (...)”

”A fantastic final chord.

The series of concerts ”Music in old village churches” was closed with a performance of an exceptionally gifted Polish Klezmer trio”

Hans-Peter Metternich, Westerwald 13.09.2006

\* \* \*

”(...) The music is so good that no one should look around the town now. (...) Yiddish music of the highest quality. (...)”

”Extremely popular concert in ”Summer in the City”. Cracow Trio made the day beautiful in Unterstadt.”

Grenz-Echo, Eupen 20.07.2006

**"(...) Mariola Spiewak turned out to be a talented clarinet player. Beside technical virtuosity, her nearly inexhaustible richness of modulation in all positions, with grace notes and glissandos, so typical for Klezmer music, evoked true admiration. Grzegorz Spiewak demonstrated great virtuosity, not only in the high range of his accordion playing but also in the bass register. As the arranger of the trio, he has managed to invest traditional Klezmer sound with chamber music quality. Rafal Seweryniak, who plucked the gut strings of his double bass or applied the baroque bow to it, created not only the basis, but also occasionally influenced the musical action. (...)"**

**"Melancholy, Meditation and Ecstasy"**  
Hans Hoefler, Coburger Tageblatt, Coburg 02.02.2005

**\* \* \***

**"(...) Their cheerful, merry music was far from what we are normally offered. (...) Mariola Spiewak must have made her decision to take up the clarinet under a really lucky star (...). Her whispering pianissimos, her fortissimos filling the whole concert hall, gentle sighs, gurgling, high notes, and virtuoso cascades of sounds made even the oldest listeners jump up from their seats and provoked cries of delight and admiration. (...)"**

**"Concert of Klezmer music in Rueckert School, Coburg, full of joy of life"**  
Dr Peter Mueller, Neue Presse, Coburg 01.02.2005

**\* \* \***

**"(...) To say that Di Galitzyaner Klezmorim just embellish Klezmer music with new attire would be too gross a simplification. (...) The music they play smacks of bolero and tango, or reminds one of Debussy. While the accordion (...) sounds as the piano. Their perfection stems from their virtuoso play; alterations of tempo are staggeringly beautiful but the players still remember about conveying the mood. (...)"**

**"Klezmer music: joyful side of Jewish culture.  
Galician trio in "Traumstern" cinema: rather orchestra than dance combo.  
From shtetl into wide world"**  
Giessener Allgemeine, Lich 11.11.2004

**”(...) Right after the first chords it seemed that the player, the instrument and the tune were inseparable. With her harmonious movements, fully engrossed in music she was playing, Mariola Spiewak managed to suggest to the audience her unification not only with the instrument, but also with the sounds. She demonstrated a whole range of her instrumental contribution to the music played by the band in an hour-and-a-half-long performance of raising and falling passages: playing shy, subtle bits before strong, forceful sounds that due to their force could have been confused with the sounds of the saxophone. (...) In a brilliant ”conversation” among the double bass, the accordion and the clarinet, the musicians managed to convey to the enchanted audience the whole charm of Klezmer music (...) and the historical weight of the music whose ancient character seems so palpable. (...)”**

**”Can’t sit still”**

Lippische Landeszeitung, Lemgo 19./20.06.2004





**More information:**

[www.klezmorim.pl](http://www.klezmorim.pl)

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