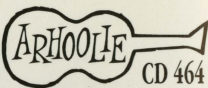


BRIAN MARSHALL & HIS TEX-SLAVIK PLAYBOYS

Texas Polish Roots



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The Musicians:

Brian Marshall— fiddle, vocals in Polish, button accordion; **Dennis Bielamowicz**—guitar; **Mark Rubin**—bass; **Faustyn Langowski**—clarinet, sax; **Chuck Bolin**—drums; **Mark Halata**—accordion; **Phillip Berger**—rhythm guitar.

Produced by Brian Marshall

Executive producer: Chris Strachwitz

Cover by Wayne Pope

Cover photo by Russell Jumonville, left to right: Mark Halata—accordion; Chuck Bolin—drums; Dennis Bielamowicz—guitar; Brian Marshall— fiddle, vocals, button accordion; Faustyn Langowski—clarinet, sax. (Missing that day: Mark Rubin—bass.)

Recorded and mixed: first part at Southwest Recordings (Houston) and second part at Garza Sound Studio (Houston), Ignacio Garza - engineer.

All selections are P.D. and arranged by Brian Marshall, © Tradition Music Co. (BMI), administered by Bug Music Co., except #6, where the composer is unknown and #16, composed by Mark Halata.

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BRIAN MARSHALL & His Tex-Slavik Playboys

TEXAS POLISH ROOTS



BRIAN MARSHALL

& HIS TEX-SLAVIK PLAYBOYS

"Texas Polish Roots"

When one thinks of Polish-American music, the large orchestras of northern US cities such as Chicago and Buffalo come to mind. The rural fiddle sound of Texans of Polish descent is little known outside the Lone Star state. For that matter, this lively music is nearly extinct even in its own territory. This is due mainly to migration to Houston which led to assimilation and acculturation.

Brian Marshall (Marszalek) is a young fiddler-vocalist who is unique to his generation in that he is both willing and capable of presenting, documenting, and carrying on the music of his heritage. A majority of the songs on this collection can be traced back to the Polish immigrants who settled in Chappell Hill and Bremond, Texas, in the late 1800s.

Although Texas Polish music, like most other ethnic music forms, has been subjected to outside influences and instrumentation over the years, Brian has chosen to include the long forgotten use of the upright bowed bass for these songs. Listen, dance, enjoy and remember that someday it may all be gone. Let's hope not!

(Frank Motley)

On guitar is Dennis Bielamowicz, another musician with Bremond roots. For several years Dennis played with Brian's uncle, Eddie Marshall. He is currently playing with the C&W band, Westwood.

Accordion duties are handled by Mark Halata who has played with several polka groups. He is best known for his work with the Rounders. His own composition "Moravia" has been included to showcase his Texas-Czech roots.

On clarinet and saxophone is Faustyn Langowski who has been playing since the 1930s. A multi-instrumentalist, Mr. Langowski

has played several types of music but for these recordings he returns to his Bremond roots.

By way of Austin, Tx., comes Mark Rubin. Mark plays the upright bass on all the selections. Acoustic bass hasn't been heard in Texas Polish music for many years. Mark is known for his work with the legendary accordionist, Santiago Jiménez Jr. He is currently touring with the Bad Livers, his main gig.

Knocking out a solid beat is drummer Chuck Bolin, a transplant from Ohio. Chuck has played with several country and rock bands. He has adapted well to a musical genre that is relatively new to him.

The Music:

1. HELENA POLKA

Traditional instrumental polka taught to me by Steve Okonski.

2. PANNI MATKA (Mother In Law Waltz)

Brian-vocal.

My mother-in-law calls me a no-good liar,

but I still got her daughter as my wife.

3. KUJAWIAK (Province of Kujawa) (*oberek*)

Traditional oberek in the Robertson County style. Title refers to a province in Poland.

4. CHAPPEL HILL DRIVE (*polka*)

I could not discover a name to this tune. It was taught to me by Daniel Cendalski. Someone made a comment that this was a great tune to listen to as you drive to the country (Chappell Hill, Tx.), and thus the name.

5. GOING HOME (*oberek*)

Traditional instrumental oberek in the Washington County style.

6. TATUSIO WALTZ (Daddy's Waltz) (DAR)

Brian-vocal and English verses by 7 year old Magon Dutka. A song learned from an old Polish LP record by a group from the Chicago area. Makes people cry at weddings as the bride dances with her father!

7. CLEAR WATER (*polka*) Brian-vocal.

*There is clear water where the horses drink.
A young girl is there all alone.
Soon the boys come a courting.
Dear God! I can't court all of you, just one.*

8. 4-STEP (*schottische*) Brian-vocal.

An old world schottische. Requires special dance steps. Marianna—the priest is coming for you—Marianna is not happy. Her designated husband is too old! I'll put the old man under the bed and get a young man to put on top of the bed. Hang the old man and have a good time with the young man!

9. Z PADLA Z WISNE (She Fell Out of a Cherry Tree) (*waltz*) Brian-vocal.

A wedding song about a girl preparing for her life in marriage.

10. JOHN MUSHINSKI'S WALTZ

Named after John Mushinski who led a popular band in Bremond, Tx., for many years. This was one of his favorites and he played this tune often. Faustyn Langowski, who is featured throughout this CD, started with John's band back in the 1930s.

11. ROSE GARDEN POLKA

An old melody played to me by my Uncle

Robert Marshall who didn't know the name of the song. I named it "Rose Garden" which is perhaps the last Polish Pub alive in Houston.

12. CHAPPEL HILL SPECIAL (*waltz*)

Brian-vocal. Johnny is drunk on warm wine. He goes home and chases his wife around and around the chimney.

13. MARTHA POLKA

Traditional instrumental polka taught to me by Steve Okonski.

14. NA WESELU POLKA (At the Wedding)

Brian-vocal. A song traditionally played from the church to the reception, on the back of the wagon that escorted the bride and groom. The words play out what will take place at the reception... dancing and general celebration while the bride and groom maintain a sincere thankfulness to God and their parents for bringing them to this point in their lives.

15. KUBA'S WEDDING WALTZ Brian-vocal.

Two different verses, one from Washington County, the other from Grimes County.

Jakub gets married on a Friday morning. Katherine had a torn featherbed, every time Jakub made a move feathers would scatter everywhere. Jakub gets married on a Friday morning.

Kristina was given an old featherbed. Every time Jakub made a move, feathers would scatter everywhere. Jakub and Kristina are laughing and the feathers are flying.

16. MORAVIA POLKA (Mark Halata)

Composed by Mark Halata who is the featured accordion player on this CD.

17. WALKING CANE WALTZ Brian-vocal.

An elderly man with a walking cane who has a cruel disposition visits each of his three daughters in order to find a place to live out his last days.

Upon hearing his request, the oldest daughter goes to the wagon, brings a rope

and tells him to hang himself.

The man then asks his middle daughter. She goes to the mill, comes back with some rocks and tells him to go drown himself.

Finally the youngest daughter accepts him into her house and offers him bread.

18. IN THE BARN WALTZ Brian-vocal.

*The light is shining in the barn.
In the barn stands a stove with a pot of
noodles (kluski) cooking. When no one is
looking, I'll eat them one by one.*

19. CZUM CZI, RUM CZUM POLKA

(La Dee Da-Dee Da) Brian-vocal.

This song paints a picture of barnyard mayhem. A pig goes into a garden to eat sweet onions. The dog sees this and chases him away by biting his rear end. An old lady is chasing and poking the pig with a stick. A goat is jumping up and down with all of the activity. The goat runs to the porch and begins making music:

*The drum goes root toot toot
The goat whistles fute fute fute
The fiddle plays ra la la
The old lady jumps up and down as she
dances.*

20. GALICIA WALTZ (oberek)

A traditional oberek named for the province in Poland where most of the Texas Polish settlers came from.

21. SIWI KON (Gray Horse) (polka) Brian-vocal.

A boy with a gray horse pulling a sleigh goes to see his girlfriend. He's told not to go because of the dust storm but he must go because she promised him something!

22. BECZKA WALTZ (Barrel Waltz) Brian-vocal.

A young girl refuses to listen to her Mother and Father's advice. Instead she makes love with Johnny behind the barrel. Now she must bear the woes of marriage.



Photo by Russell Jumonville

Brian Marshall

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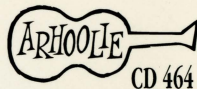
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File Under: POLKA/FOLK

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