

MACIEK SCHEJBAL



AFRO
POLKA



Afro-Polka is truly the soundtrack to one man's voyages, and it is a pleasure to be allowed to be a travel companion on this musical journey. It would have been easy for Maciek to stay in Poland and be a successful musician. Well versed in European traditions he could have remained in his comfort zone, but instead he chose to take many roads rarely traveled. From Cracow, to the bustling streets of Johannesburg and Cape Town, and then onto the larger than life scene in New York City, Maciek has traveled, listened, learned and amalgamated a huge amount of styles, traditions and art forms into a strong, singular and original musical voice.

Often when I hear music that is referred to as "world music" it is either music that is stuck in the tradition where it comes from, or it is music that appropriates the culture of another (generally poorly) into a fusion of elements, losing the heart of the music that it is taken from. This is far from the case with Afro-Polka. It is clear from beat one of *Crack Off* that Maciek has done the homework of immersing himself in a variety of musical cultures, learning the real language of each but never allowing their history or the dictates of the times to define his own musical voice. In other words, he could easily fit into the prevailing styles of his musical interests and operate completely convincingly in them, but as a composer he chooses to take all the beautiful cultures' rhythms and melodies that he has lived and experienced and make a very personal musical vision.

This vision or voice is brought to fruition by the stellar musicians assembled to make this recording. With a top flight cast of artists, Maciek lays down an amazing array of grooves and melodies and musical worlds that remind me at times of Hermeto Pascoal, Joe Zawinul, and even of Frank Zappa. He has a strong command of a wide range of colors and ideas and he makes them his own, not being held back by convention or by the business of making music. He takes the listener on a very personal journey that could only be an expression of his own travels and discoveries. After listening to this recording one has a pretty good idea of how, where and when Maciek has lived, loved, traveled and played throughout his life, with dedication, reverence, love and an open mind.

– Sean Conly

Sean Conly is a composer, educator and one of the most in-demand bass players on the New York City jazz, World and avant-garde music scene.

TRACK LISTING

- 1. CRACK OFF** 6:01 (Maciek Schejbal / Polish Trad.) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey-guitars; Dan Brantigan-trumpet; Kaïssa Doumbè-vocals; Fred Doumbè-bass;
Maciek Schejbal-drums, programming
- 2. BIKE WITH ME** 4:52 (Maciek Schejbal) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey-guitars; Dan Brantigan-trumpet, flugehorn; John Patitucci-bass;
Maciek Schejbal-drums
- 3. SICK AMORE** 5:58 (Maciek Schejbal / Polish Trad.) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Sean Wayland-synthesizers, programming; Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey-guitars; Bakithi Kumalo-bass;
Maciek Schejbal-drums, synthesizers
- 4. I WANDER** 7:57 (Maciek Schejbal / Philippa Yaa De Villiers / Polish Trad.) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Kaïssa Doumbè-voice; Jerome Harris-electric guitar; Sheryl Bailey-acoustic guitar;
Dan Brantigan-trumpet; Leo Traversa-bass; Maciek Schejbal-drums
- 5. MORNING PEOPLE** 4:58 (Maciek Schejbal) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey, Gregg Fine-guitars; Brian Charette-organ; Dan Brantigan-trumpet;
Gregory Jones-bass; Maciek Schejbal-drums
- 6. THE RACE OF TAD** 8:58 (Maciek Schejbal / Polish Trad.) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey-guitars; John Patitucci-acoustic and electric basses; Maciek Schejbal-drums
- 7. MARTINO's BASEMENT** 5:43 (Maciek Schejbal / Polish Trad.) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Jerome Harris, Sheryl Bailey-guitars; Brian Charette-organ; Dan Brantigan-trumpet;
Fred Doumbè, Gregory Jones-basses; Maciek Schejbal-drums; The Highlanders Afro-Polka Ensemble:
John Patitucci, Essiet Okon Essiet-double basses; Sachi Patitucci-cello
- 8. WONDER BRO** 7:27 (Maciek Schejbal) Nova Huta Music, ASCAP
Sheryl Bailey-acoustic and electric guitars; Sean Wayland-synthesizer; Leo Traversa-fretless bass;
Maciek Schejbal-drums, synthesizer

**Recorded by Maciek Schejbal at Afro-Polka Forest Studio, Queens, New York
Chunky Karma Studio, North Plainfield, New Jersey
Pastasushi Studio, Hastings-on-Hudson, New York**

Mixed by Charles A. Martinez

Mastered by Michael Fossenkemper at TurtleTone Studio

Produced by Maciek Schejbal

*My gratitude to all musicians who generously shared their time in bringing this album to life.
Special thanks to Schejbals, Dereńs, Kawulas, Traversas, Polewaczyks, Witold Małinowski, Greg
Nouick, Andrzej Walczak, Bahar Behbahani, Andrew Buckland, and Tony Cedras for helping to
keep the flame going.*

- Maciek

Logo design - Dominik Klimowski

www.afropolka.com

WANDERERS (I WANDER)

WRITTEN BY PHILLIPPA YAA DE VILLIERS

FRENCH TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION BY KAÏSSA DOUMBÈ

I never wanted to be fenced in
Something about the call of the horizon
First time I saw you was in silhouette
With galaxies behind you, I could navigate

Now we meet on a similar street
Our lives intersecting twenty years in between and
Baby you look just the same as you did before
With eyes like blue storms over mountains...

We were wanderers
searching the world for a home
outsiders
only at home in a world of two

And you can't cage a wandering song
inside that dream
I was dying
last time I saw you was on Route 64
getting smaller as I drove away

It's been such a long time since we sang
that wandering song
I've still got that dream if you want
you can come along
and we still have that feeling
that brought us together that long ago time

How does it go again, that half-forgotten song
Can you remember how it goes again?