

# MAGDA PISKORCZYK



(pronounce: peas-CORE-chick) is a singer with a mature, low and unusual voice timbre. Described in France as "la voix noire et au costume blanc" (Black voice in a white costume). She is a guitar, bass guitar and percussion player, as well as a song writer. Magda performs music of Afro-American and African heritage. She is a two-time Semi-finalist of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, USA. Readers of the Polish blues quarterly chose her the Female Vocalist of the Year 2003, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

In 2009 Magda was invited to play with Konoba, an international band performing traditional West African music. She tours regularly with her band, and has performed at numerous festivals almost all over Europe and in Taiwan.

## MUSIC OF MAGDA PISKORCZYK

is her tasteful arrangements of funk, blues, gospel, soul, rock and jazz classics and her own original compositions as well. Despite her music being deeply set in the Afro-American tradition, it is very personal and innovative at the same time. Joy and humour, great emotions and energy are mixed with deep messages, melancholy and moving sincerity. An unusual, expressive usage of voice and perfectly matched sounds of guitars or other instruments make this music unique and captivating.

Magda is known for the excellent contact with the audience, which is alternately involved in spontaneous amusement (collective singing, emotional shouting, hand-clapping or snapping their fingers) and deep reflection. She has performed with many famous musicians, such as Bob Margolin, Bob Brozman, Seckou Keita, Greg Zlap, Wojciech Karolak, Organek, Michał Urbaniak, Slidin' Slim, Rita Engedalen and Engerling group. In Summer 2010 she gave 22 concerts with harmonica virtuoso, Blues Award Winner, Billy Gibson.



## Magda has released six CDs including:

- "Mahalia" - in Honor of Mahalia Jackson celebrating the 100th Birthday Anniversary of the Queen of Gospel;
- "Afro Groove" - double live CD feat. Billy Gibson, harmonica virtuoso from Memphis, with lots of ethnic flavor;
- "Live at Satyrblues" - with Swedish guitar player and singer-songwriter Slidin' Slim.
- "Magda Live" - acoustic CD, recorded live in Radio Gdańsk
- "Blues Travelling" - feat. Michał Urbaniak, a renowned jazz violinist;

"Magda Live", "Afro Groove" and "Mahalia" have been nominated to the Fryderyk Award, the most prestigious award of the Polish Phonographic Industry. In 2011 Magda launched her original music workshops "Magda Piskorczyk Masterclass" based on her own program. CD "Magda Piskorczyk Masterclass" released in 2012 is the fruit of such workshops organized in Warsaw.



## GOSPEL AND MAHALIA JACKSON

In 2011 Magda prepared a special program entitled "Tribute to Mahalia Jackson" with the gospel songs arranged by Magda on the old and beautiful tradition, in which joy and energy interlace with the passion of worship and deep reflection.

She has performed gospel and spiritual songs many times in Poland, Germany, Sweden, Hungary and France. In 2008 she gave a series of concerts with her band at the City Sings Gospel Festival in Liverpool. There she performed also at the Hope Street Festival and during the final concert in the Metropolitan Cathedral, broadcast by the BBC Radio.

## FROM BEGINNINGS TO STARS

Magda was born in South-western part of Poland. She studied computer science at Technical University of Wrocław. Since the very childhood she kept singing everywhere and almost all the time. She listened to the music of different genres.

Her debut in 2001 at the festival in Białystok was a great success - Magda and her then band won The First Prize in the festival's competition. In 2002 Magda chose solo performing. She gave lots of concerts in duos and as a guest of renowned Polish bands.

Since 2005 she has regularly performed with her own band and has given shows at many festivals almost all over Europe.

In 2008 the first Polish Blues Stars Alley opened in town Sława near Zielona Góra. There were three stars prepared and one of them honours Magda who stamped her hand on the promenade too.



## MEMPHIS 2005 & 2006

Magda Piskorczyk is said to be the first artist in the history of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee who came directly from Europe to take part in this biggest blues contest in the world. She was a two-time Semi-finalist of this competition and received very good comments of the Jurors:

"You have a great "raw" sense of the music you're playing. I'd like to hear you on a full body guitar. I love your vocal phrasing" (Steve Clark)

"Your Muddy Water Blues was GREAT. I'll remember it for a long time. Great!" (John Pfeiffer)

"Very engaging performance - I like the way you bring the audience into your act - great sounds - very earthy, gutsy - this is what I think the blues should sound like! Good variety of songs - in your set - very nice - fast, slow, happy, sad - makes for a much more entertaining show!" (Mark Loft)

## DISCOGRAPHY

- Magda Piskorczyk - "Mahalia", Artgraff, 2011
- Magda Piskorczyk feat. Billy Gibson - "Afro Groove", Artgraff, 2011
- Magda Piskorczyk feat. Billy Gibson - "Afro Groove", BSMF Japan 2011
- Magda Piskorczyk & Slidin' Slim - "Live at Satyrblues", Artgraff, 2010
- Magda Piskorczyk - "Magda Live", Artgraff, 2008
- Magda Piskorczyk - "Blues Travelling", MTJ, 2005
- Magda Piskorczyk - "Make Your Spirit Fly", demo, 2002, digipack reedition 2017

### As a guest:

- "Magda Piskorczyk Master Class", Ośrodek Kultury Ochoty, 2012;
- Antoni Krupa - "Amela", Radio Cracow 2012;
- J.J.Band - "Blues. Utwory Tadeusza Nalepy", 2010
- Blues Flowers - "Smaczne!", 2008
- Blues Flowers - "Bluesmenty", 2005
- Blues Flowers - "Spoko Wodza", 2003
- The Jam Session Band - "One Night At Satyrblues Live", 2003

### Compilations:

- "The Best Blues...Ever!", 4CDbox, EMIMusic Poland 2012, one song
- "Jazz Addiction", "Jazz Unlimited" and nine other audiophile compilation CDs released in Singapore and Malaysia since 2011
- "Smooth Jazz po polsku", 5-CD Box, 2010, one song
- "17 International Gastroblues Festival", DVD, Hungary 2009, 6 songs
- "Blues sur Seine celebrates its 10 years", France 2008, song "Walking Blues"
- "Antologia Polskiego Bluesa" - anthologies with 5-CD boxes, 4 songs, 2008 & 2009
- "Blues sur Seine, 8eme edition", song "Help Me", France 2006





MAGDA PISKORCZYK



BLUES TRAVELLING

MAGDA PISKORCZYK



MAGDA PISKORCZYK & SLIDIN' SLIM LIVE AT SATYRBLUES



## "BLUES TRAVELLING" FEAT. MICHAL URBANIAK

Her first album "Blues Travelling" was released in 2005, during the biggest indoor blues festival in the World: Rawa Blues. Magda recorded the album with her friends and special guest: legendary jazz musician Michal Urbaniak (violin on "Tutu" album of Miles Davis).

It contains 16 songs - the music she performed at that time with her friends - blues standards or less known compositions in very personal form, such as: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" - a moving gospel which spent the record-breaking time on the first place of the Radio Cracow Hit List; "Temptation" - an exciting version of Tom Waits song, with Magda on the electric double bass; "Work Song" - an aged-sounding jail work song with Magda's harsh voice, accompanied only on the sax and a simple beat of the drum.

## "MAGDA LIVE" NOMINATED TO THE FRYDERYK AWARD

The CD, released in 2008, was recorded at RGStudio Radio Gdansk. It contains 13 acoustic songs full of energy, seasoned with two reflective ballads. Magda serves her own tasty arrangements and personal interpretations of a few standards taken from various genres, for example: jazz ("All of Me"), blues ("Walking Blues"), gospel ("Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"), as well as modern compositions of the authors such as: Tracy Chapman ("Crossroads") or Paul Rodgers ("Muddy Water Blues"). A very unique element of the album is a jazzy version of Jacques Brel's song with the English text titled "Hearts". The CD contains also multimedia with 15 minutes video filmed at the concert. Nominated to the Fryderyk Award of the Polish Phonographic Industry.

## "LIVE AT SATYRBLUES" WITH SLIDIN' SLIM

Magda and Swedish musician Slidin' Slim performed together at the Satyrblues Festival in Tarnobrzeg, Poland in 2009. It was their first joint performance, preceded only with a short sound check. They met the evening before at the airport. In the beginning they were supposed to play only for a quarter and in duo. However... As it is stated in "Gitarzysta" magazine: "Their joint concert was so much liked by the audience that planned 15 minutes turned into 45 and the encore only seemed to intensify hunger for more."

Magda and Slim sing by turns. They both play guitars: Magda - acoustic and Slim - dobro. They are accompanied by two musicians from Magda's band: Aleksandra Siemieniuk on electric guitar and Grzegorz Zawiliński on limited percussion set containing instruments such as a washboard and spoons. In the CD there is a video presentation of all the concert too.

## DOUBLE "AFRO GROOVE" WITH BILLY GIBSON

In this double CD album Magda invites to a musical journey through her closest sounds, cultures and traditions. She presents multicolour and very personal collage, blending the music with the Afro-American roots (blues, soul, funk, jazz) and the ethnic rhythms or melodies, especially from the Western Africa.

Magda sings primarily in English, although some pieces include vocals in Tamashek, Bambara and Polish. She plays acoustic and bass guitar, accompanied by her band: Aleksandra Siemieniuk - dobro and electric guitar, Marcin Jahr - drums, Adam Rozenman - percussion plus a special guest: Billy Gibson - vocalist and harmonica virtuoso from Memphis, Blues Award Winner. In 2010 they gave 22 concerts in Europe. The first CD presents the concert recorded during this tour. In the second CD there are 3 bonus songs.

## "MAHALIA" IN HONOR OF THE QUEEN OF GOSPEL

Studio album prepared by Magda in Honor of Mahalia Jackson to celebrate the 100th Birthday Anniversary of the Queen of Gospel (October 26, 2011). "Come on Children, Let's Sing", "Lord, Search My Heart", "Trouble of the World", "Keep Your Hand on the Plow" or "Go Tell It on the Mountain" are only a few examples from a very long list of the songs, which became worldwide known and close to millions of people due to Mahalia. They enchanted Magda too. The CD includes 15 songs produced and arranged by Magda on the old and beautiful tradition, in which joy and energy interlace with the passion of worship and deep reflection.

## MEDIA AND MUSICIANS ABOUT MAGDA

Excellent music, beautiful voice, musicians in top form, our audience love it absolutely.

(Serge WARIN about CD „Magda Live”, Radio Canal Bleu, France)

I can hardly wait to see this lady live on stage!

(Bobtje's Blues Pages, Holland)

Blues from Poland? Possibly the last place you'd expect to hear blues coming from. Magda Piskorczyk has a great bluesy voice, and you'd never guess that she was from Eastern Europe - although you might guess at Mississippi or Tennessee.

(Terry Clear, Blues Bytes)

"She's a great future for the music. She's a great, great musician with very good groove and sense of music".

(Bob Brozman after the concert with Magda at Dobrofest Trnava)

Excellent, deep-voiced singer - her voice is somewhere between Koko Taylor, Charley Patton, Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Tommy Johnson) - capable of tackling well-known blues, jazz and gospel numbers alongside more contemporary songs from the pens of Jacques Brel, Paul Rodgers ('Muddy Water Blues' is a wonderful performance) and Tracy Chapman, and her style is distinctive, individual and unusual. So too are her arrangements, which certainly avoid the obvious and although they are acoustic-based, can be extremely powerful...

(Norman Darwen about CD "Magda Live", BluesArt-Journal)

Piskorczyk has guts, taste, an adventuresome spirit and a deep sense of the Blues. One gets the feeling of a significant talent waiting to fully refine itself.

(M.D. Spencer about "Blues Travelling" and "Magda Live" for "Blues Matters")

Man sollte sich niemals sicher sein, die Magie dieses Albums erfasst zu haben. Natürlich ist da in jedem Song diese tiefe und zutiefst warme Stimme. Wenn es nicht so ein übles Klischee wäre, könnte man die Kollegen zitieren, die natürlich von einer schwarzen Stimme in einer weißen Frau schreiben. Nein: das ist nicht nötig. Wir hören einfach die Stimme einer Frau, die den Blues wirklich im Herzen verstanden hat und nicht nur die Lehrbücher nachbetet.

(Nathan Nörgel, Magazine Wasser-prawda.de)

Magda werkt zich geïnspireerd door het repertoire van Mahalia Heen, waarbij gezegd moet worden dat het hier en daar wat vlak dreigt te worden. Maar in het prijsnummer Elijah rock is Magda formidabel. Summertime is een waardig slot van een gospelalbum van Magda Piskorczyk waarvan liefhebbers van The Blind Boys of Alabama, Mavis Staples en natuurlijk Mahalia Jackson veel plezier aan kunnen beleven.

(Gerrit Schinkel, Mahalia, [www.bluesmagazine.nl](http://www.bluesmagazine.nl))

"Afro Groove" is an impressive introduction to the music of Magda Piskorczyk, one of the finest young blues performers in Europe.

([worldmusiccentral.org](http://worldmusiccentral.org))



## SELECTED INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

Tyykiblues Festival, Frossa, Finland (2018)  
Vienna Blues Spring Festival, Austria (2014, 2018)  
Suwałki Blues Festival (2011, 2018)  
Jimiway Festival, Ostrów Wielkopolski, Poland (2002, 2006, 2017)  
Europe Blues Train, Hannover, Berlin & Bruchhausen-Vilsen (2016, 2017)  
Singen Stadtfest, Germany (2015)  
Dresden Jazztage, Dresden, Germany (2014)  
Transit Festival, Burg Klempenow, Germany (2014)  
Blue Wave Festival, Rugia, Germany (2014)  
Chemnitzer Stadtfest, Chemnitz, Germany (2013)  
Prerov Jazz Festival, Prerov, Czech Rep. (2009 & 2013)  
Old Jazz Meeting, Iława Poland (2013)  
Southern Rock and Blues Festival, Kolin, Czech Rep. (2013)  
Blues Bash, Taipei, Taiwan (2012)  
Autumn with Blues, Białystok, Poland (2001, 2002, 2004, 2012)  
Opole Gospel Festival, Opole, Poland (2012)  
Blues au chateau Festival, La Cheze, France (2012)  
Picnic Country, Dabrowa Gornicza, Poland (2012)  
Eutin Bluesfest / Blues Baltica, Germany (2011)  
Plus Tennis Music Festival, Szczecin, Poland (2010)  
Dusty Road Blues Festival, Tidaholm, Sweden (2010)  
Fredrikstad Bluescamp, Fredrikstad, Norway (2010)  
Jazz Blues Jamboree, Nove Zamky, Slovakia (2010)  
Harmonica Bridge, Toruń and Bydgoszcz, Poland (2010)  
Satyrblues, Tarnobrzeg, Poland (2003, 2009 & 2010)  
Trossingen Blues Fabrik, Germany (2009)  
Gastroblues, Paks, Hungary (2009)  
City Sings Gospel, Liverpool, UK (2008)  
Buezzfest, Burgas, Bulgaria (2006)  
Resonator Guitar Festival, Sullingen, Germany (2005, 2006)  
Blues Sur Seine, France (2006)  
Rawa Blues Festival, Katowice, Poland (2003, 2005)  
Berlin Bluesfestival, Germany (2004)  
Blues Alive, Sumperk, Czech Republic (2002)



## THE BAND

**Magda Piskorczyk** (vocal, acoustic, electric & bass guitar, drums, percussion, arrangements) regularly performs with her band:

- **Krzysztof Woliński / Sebastian Kret / Marcin Zaleś** - guitars;
- **Bartek Kazek** – drums and percussion.

Extendend line-up & special projects (such as Mahalia) include: double bass, Hammond, harmonica, horns or ethnic percussion.



## PROGRAM OPTIONS

**Magda offers various concert programs, especially:**

- **Afro Groove** – mixture of Afro-American (blues, soul, funk, jazz, gospel) and ethnic music, especially from Africa plus her own compositions (usually in trio)
- **World Travels** – music travel through cultures and traditions (possible extended line-up with percussion, ethnic or wind instruments)
- **Mahalia** – gospel songs in tribute to Mahalia Jackson (usually extended line-up and 5-person choir).

Magda is open for the cooperation with abroad musicians too.

## CONTACT

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## MULTIMEDIA

[www.youtube.com/piskorczyk](http://www.youtube.com/piskorczyk)

[soundcloud.com/magdapiskorczyk/](https://soundcloud.com/magdapiskorczyk/)

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[www.magdapiskorczyk.net](http://www.magdapiskorczyk.net)