



POLKY

Contemporary Polish Folk / World / Slavic

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POLKY BIO

Bio 50 words

Toronto's Polky, led by multi-talented immigrant female musicians, delights audiences with Eastern European-style traditional vocals, unusual instruments such as suka, and energizing performances. Drawing deep inspiration from Poland's rich cultural tapestry, they push musical boundaries by fearlessly blending Polish traditional music with sounds and rhythms from across the globe.

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Polky stands out for its distinctive elements, including the mesmerizing Eastern European-style traditional vocals and incorporating the 'suka,' an ancient lap fiddle reconstructed from historical paintings. Lead singer Ewelina Ferenc earned the prestigious Traditional Singer of The Year title at the 2022 Canadian Folk Music Awards. Marta Solek is an accomplished suka virtuoso who has performed alongside esteemed Polish artists like Same Suki, Maria Pomianowska, and Nikola Kołodziejczyk. Through their performances, Polky introduces Polish culture to North American audiences, embodying the role of cultural ambassadors for Polish modern traditions.

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With their infectious charm, captivating performances, and unyielding passion for exploration, Polky is undoubtedly a band that stands apart. Their music is not just a sonic experience but a celebration of cultural diversity, women empowerment, an invitation to revel in the joy of life, and a reminder that, deep down, we are all connected by the power of music.

Over the past two summers, Canadian Folk Music Award winner (2022), Toronto's women-led Polish folk ensemble Polky has grown its Canadian touring radius, performing at eleven summer festivals across the country, ranging from Vancouver Island MusicFest (2023) and Regina Folk Festival (2023) to Sunfest (2022) and Stan Rogers Folk Festival (2022) while being recognized as official showcasing artists at Folk Music Ontario, Folk Alliance International, APAP, Your Roots Are Showing and Mundial Montreal, effectively promoting Polish and Eastern European folk traditions. Their EP, titled "Immigration" (2018), drew inspiration from various sources, such as Polish traditional music hailing from the Mazovia region and Polish mountains and themes of immigration to Canada. Interestingly, even Led Zeppelin played a role in their creative influences. Their debut album, "Songs From Home" (2020), received praise from Songlines Magazine for its captivatingly dynamic essence. It encapsulates the spirit of the multicultural city of Toronto and reflects the band's deep-rooted Polish heritage. Notably, this album's excellence led to its nomination in three categories at the Canadian Folk Music Awards 2022, ultimately clinching the Traditional Singer of The Year Award for the talented Ewelina Ferenc.



Preferred lineup:

Ewelina Ferenc - *lead vocal, percussion*

Marta Sołek - *Polish knee fiddles*

Ekaterina Pyatkova - *vocals*

Peter Klaassen - *upright bass (sub: Connor Crone)*

Sam Clark - *fiddle*

Max Senitt - *percussion (subs: Matias Recharte, Jaime Eduardo Carrasco, Lorie Wolf)*

QUOTES

"Polky had people on their feet."

- Brent Lale - CTV News London, [read here!](#)

"Joyful songs celebrating Polish music in Canada!"

- Angel Romero, World Music Central, [read here!](#)

"Energetic wilderness"

- Songlines Magazine, [read here!](#)

"Polky musically incorporates the love of all their homes' traditional music into their own luminous original sound."

- The Whole Note Magazine, [read here!](#)

"Valiant and cheerful."

-Exclaim! [read here!](#)

"Ewelina is a powerful vocalist whose voice could peel the wallpaper off walls."

- Roots Music Canada, [read here!](#)



Recent highlights

Winner, Traditional Singer of the Year - Canadian Folk Music Awards (2022)

Nominee, Global Roots Album of the Year - Canadian Folk Music Awards (2022)

Nominee, Emerging / New Artist of the Year - Canadian Folk Music Awards (2022)

Discography:

Immigration EP - June 22, 2017

Rain single - May 15, 2020

Songs From Home LP - December 6, 2020

Rutka, single - to be set to released in the fall 2024