

Vistula River Brass Band - Polish Jazz Vol.13 (1989)



01. *The Pearls* [4:08] 02. *Kansas City Stomp* [3:19] 03. *Black And Tan Fantasy* [3:24] 04. *Copenhagen* [3:33] 05. *Nie Do Przyjęcia Rag | The Unacceptable Rag* [4:12] 06. *Sidewalk Blues* [3:53] 07. *Old Folks Shuffle* [3:55] 08. *Basin Street Blues* [3:45] 09. *Sweet Georgia Brown* [3:38] 10. *The Entertainer* [4:44] 11. *Panama Rag* [4:55] 12. *Over The Waves* [5:41] 13. *Creole Love Call* [4:28] 14. *Tiger Rag* [5:12] 15. *St. James Infirmary* [5:08] 16. *Buddy's Habit* [5:23] 17. *Liza* [3:53] (1-9) Vistula River Brass Band, 1982 Bohdan Styczyński - co Stefan Woźniakowski - co Lech Szprot - cl, as Edward Strąk - cl, ts Marek Wachowiak - tb Andrzej Jastrzębski - tu Jerzy Żebrowski - p Andrzej Umiński - bjo Włodzimierz Przybylski - dr (10-17) Vistula River Brass Band, 1977 Stefan Woźniakowski - tp Bohdan Styczyński - co Edward Strąk - cl, ts Lech Szprot - cl, ts Marek Wachowiak - tb (10-12) Wojciech Ciarkowski - tb (14-16) Waldemar Wolski - tb (13) Jerzy Żebrowski - p, arr Andrzej Jastrzębski - tu Andrzej Umiński - bjo Jerzy Więckowski - dr, leader

Bands like the VRBB are few and far between when it comes to longevity. Come to think of it, they have already been on the job for two decades. The ties that bind are their common interests, love of jazz, care for the old style, mutual respect and accomplishments. The history of the band reads a little like a Horatio Alger case. A group of avowed jazz enthusiasts from all walks of life, musicians all but by vocation rather than school training, band together to play old time jazz, rough it through the tough beginnings, stick together through thick and thin, lose a few musicians, win a few and with the sky-is-the-limit motto through it all and quite a few records under their belts, finally make it big touring Europe. Their music has its origins in the ragtime of the 20s, which fascinated the likes of George Gershwin as much as Stravinsky. They prefer the subtly balanced arrangements and improvisations of that music to the unrestrained Dixieland Jazz, which means that theirs is the music of New Orleans and Chicago, where the massive sound of brass and march-like rhythms dominate. Consequently, they do without flamboyant show-offs, complications, the "sweet sound" of the saxophone of the swing era, unfazed under the pressure of the tyrannical modernists. The leaders of the ensemble are the pianist and arranger Jerzy "Watson" Żebrowski and Bohdan Styczynski, the trumpeter. Their quarters are at the student club of the Warsaw Politechnic by the name of "Stodola". ---Andrzej Karpinski, polskijazz.album.pm

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