



etnos
ensemble

concert offer

/original compositions, balkan, polish and jewish music/

contact

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about etnos

Etnos Ensemble is a musical group performing **original compositions** inspired by ethnic influences of music from all over the world as well as **Balkan, Polish and Jewish music**.

Bartosz Pacan /clarinet/

Konrad Merta /accordion/

Piotr Gach /cello/

Łukasz Mazanek /double bass/



photo by Monika Pieniżek

The group is formed by four musicians who have been friends for some time. Their **style is individual and original**, hence it is difficult to define it as one particular musical genre. Therefore, the musicians are not restricted in their artistic work and interpretations in any way. The most frequent influences present in their music come from **traditional Balkan, Polish, Klezmer music as well as some elements of jazz**. This musical cocktail combined with the virtuosity of musicians creates a **unique and unforgettable atmosphere** during the concerts.

Etnos Ensemble musicians attach greatest importance to the **distinctiveness of sound and honesty of their musical message**. Thanks to that, performing on stage, captured by the uncontrolled element of music, **they make the listener engross in their musical world** leaving no one indifferent to the music they play. Numerous prizes and distinctions in many all-Poland and international competitions are the confirmation of the high level presented by the musicians of Etnos. In 2016, Etnos Ensemble recorded a **debut album** which can be purchased after their concerts enabling the listener to prolong the pleasure of communing with the music of the group.

the offer

The Etnos Ensemble project offers you an encounter with **music of the highest level** which guarantees the feeling of satisfaction in your audience.

Each performance is professionally prepared by adjusting the repertoire individually to the event, tastes of the listeners as well as the venue.

Most frequently, the group presents its work by giving a concert of almost an hour and a half, but the musicians are willing to accept unconventional projects as well. Etnos Ensemble **cooperates with institutions, companies as well as with private individuals**. The repertoire includes pieces as famous as **Libertango, Jovano Jovanke or Ajde Jano**, but the strongest points of the concerts are original compositions inspired by folk elements of music from all over the world. Piotr Gach, the charismatic cellist, appears as the MC and introduces the audience to the specificity of folk music in a pleasant and accessible way.

Etnos Ensemble usually perform as a four-member group. However, it is possible to extend the basic line-up by **a vocalist and violinist Katarzyna Merta** and **a percussionist Przemysław Pacan**.

The group came to existence thanks to a meeting of four musicians searching space for self-fulfillment who got connected by the love to folk music, so to what is **beautiful, simple, lively and closest to the soul of every man in this music**. By joining this passion for folk music and virtuosity of technique, they managed to create a unique project – sophisticated, yet universal interpretation of such music. All of this can be heard during concerts and musical events with Etnos Ensemble.



photo by Monika Pieniążek

biographies of musicians

Bartosz Pacan

Completed the Academy of Music in Katowice with honours in the class of Prof. Andrzej Janicki. Since 2010 he has been employed as a clarinetist in The Polish National Radio Symphony Orkiestra. He has been improving his skills by taking part in numerous masterclasses with Piotr Szymyślik, Arnaud Leroy, Valter Vitek, Jiri Hlavac, Nicholas Cox, David Krakauer. As a soloist, he performed with numerous orchestras such as The Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, The Polish National Radio Chamber Orkiestra Amadeus, The Silesian Chamber Orkiestra, The Silesian Filharmony, Filharmonies in Częstochowa and in Rybnik.

In Etnos, Bartosz is a very strong and charismatic personality. His artistic virtuosity attracts and moves not only music lovers, but also novices in the field. In his freetime, he enjoys the role of a happy daddy to his little baby-son.

Konrad Merta

Accordionist, arranger, composer. He completed his PhD studies at the Accordion Department at the Academy of Music in Katowice in the class of Prof. Joachim Pichura and Piotr Chołłowicz, PhD. He also studied in Essen at the Folkwang Universität der Kunste in the class of the Japanese accordionist Prof. Mie Miki. He has performed in Europe, Asia and Africa several times searching for musical inspirations there.

Music, especially music combined with elements of folk, is a way of life for Konrad Merta. He is the 'brain' of the Etnos Ensemble project. He could actually say that after years of dealing with that kind of music, he has become similar to it when it comes to its character. Konrad's conduct, behaviour and energy personalizes the essence of ethnic music – he is spontaneous, energetic and joyful, yet he can also fall into a reverie and perfect harmony. All of that can be heard and felt in his original compositions and arrangements.

Piotr Gach

A cellist born in Stupsk, where he started playing the cello at the age of 6. Piotr is a winner of numerous prizes and scholarships. After graduating from high school, thanks to the support of the City of London corporation, he became a student of Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. After coming back to Poland, he completed his MA in the class of adt dr Piotr Janosik in the Academy of Music in Katowice. He is currently performing with the Cracow Philharmony Orchestra, Radom Chamber Orchestra as well as AUKSO in Tychy.

During concerts with Etnos, Piotr is not only to be seen as an outstanding instrumentalist, but he also appears as a MC resembling rock front men. Thanks to his emceeding, Etnos concerts gain a unique atmosphere and introduce the audience to the specificity of folk music. His original way of speaking about music enriched by a substantial portion of personal reflections on music makes the concerts a memorable experience for the listeners.

Łukasz Mazanek

A double bass player, who has just graduated from the Academy of Music in Cracow in the class of assistant lecturer Krzysztof Firlus. Earlier, he polished bowing and pizzicatos in the class of Gerard Przybyła, MA in Secondary Music School in Bytom. He has been awarded numerous prizes in many competitions and festivals. He is currently performing as a soloist, a chamber musician, an orchestra musician as well as a session musician. He also collaborates with Sinfonietta Cracovia.

Apart from music, another great passion of Łukasz is food – cooking, to be precise. He took a special liking to confectionery, which suits the taste of the rest of the group! In Etnos, he is also responsible for the transport, as he is the only person who can fit a double bass, a cello, a guitar and three passengers into an old Opel Corsa.



photo by Monika Pieniążek

contact and multimedia

If you are interested in our work and we passed some of our passion to ethnic music on you, we encourage you to contact us and take a closer look at our compositions on YouTube and SoundCloud. We can also make the material from our debut album available to you, if needed. Current information about us are also posted on Facebook and Instagram.

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