

## Marcin Olak Trio – Simple Joy (2008)

Written by bluesever

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*01 Dancing Lion 02 Simple Joy 03 Above 04 Backstage Song 05 Song 4.2 06 Shofar  
07 Jazzpanola 08 Lydian Sky 09 Kolysanka No 2* Marcin Olak - guitars Wojtek Traczyk -  
bass Hubert Zemler - drums

Marcin Olak is one of the most interesting Polish jazz guitar players. He is one of the few who play modern jazz on classical and acoustic guitars, using the specific sound and articulative possibilities of those instruments; sometimes he also plays electric guitar. He moves between various styles: jazz, classical and contemporary, from fully composed pieces to improvised music. Marcin Olak performs solo and with various bands ranging from free-jazz combos, through classical guitar ensembles, to a symphony orchestra. Marcin is also appreciated as an arranger and composer: he writes chamber music and concertos, jazz themes and songs.

Usually guitar in jazz is treated linearly. Most guitarists play with a pick, and thus are able to play a single note melody or chords. Marcin Olak -with his classical guitar background -plays differently. He creates multi-level, complex textures, using the specific sound and articulative possibilities of his guitars, according to the European guitar tradition. And that's not the end of surprises...

Marcin graduated from Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw (PL) in classical guitar. He took part in numerous master classes with classical guitarists Roberto Aussel and Jorge Cardoso, among others, and jazz performers like Ralph Towner and Scott Henderson. Marcin Olak has played at some of the most important Polish guitar and jazz festivals, such as: Warsaw Summer Jazz Days (2013, 2008), Warsaw Autumn (2007,2009), Jazz na Buduku (2006, 2008, 2012), Jazz w Ruinach (2007), Guitar City (2005, 2008), Jazz Juniors (2005), Warsaw Underground Jazz (2003) and many more. Warsaw Guitar Festival in 2008 and 2013 seem particularly worth mentioning as Marcin's own concertos for jazz guitar trio and orchestra

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(2008) and for two guitars and strings (2013) were performed there for the first time. Marcin has also played on the most important stages in Poland, including the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw and Witold LutosÅ'awski Concert Studio of the Polish Radio. He has recorded for Polish radio and TV on numerous occasions. ---allaboutjazz.com

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