



TANŌK is a female duo from Poland/Ukraine, consisting of Kateryna Ziabliuk on the piano, voice and electronics, and Natalia Kordiak with the voice, electronics and percussions. Both had a jazz high school education, however, the direction of the band went into mixing free jazz sound with Slavic folk rituals. The band was established spontaneously, intuitively, as the music we create. “Tanok” means a particular group dance, which is performed usually in spring to call the energy of nature, from which we are inspired. Since that is not a typical music concert, but the performance with dances, colourful lights, screams and laughs. That is the creation of a musical ritual.



Pieśń Lasu/Forest Song is an improvised suite co-authored by pianist/vocalist Kateryna Ziabliuk and vocalist Natalia Kordiak (duo TANŌK). The performance is based on the drama of the same title by Lesia Ukrainka – one of the most outstanding writers in Ukrainian and world literature. Lesia completed this work in 1911, in Kutaisi, in just 10-12 days.

Forest Song is a collective image of the oral mythology of Ukrainian Volyn, a macro-region that for many centuries was conserved on its own, developed without outside influence, and technological development came much later than in other parts of Ukraine.

This is a story about the existence of two parallel worlds, the beauty of nature, infantile freedom, sensitive souls of the heroes. The history of existence on the border of two worlds. Both of them are undoubtedly real in the mindset of people. Both of them have their own straight rules that are quite logical for their inmates. Lesia presented and connected two worlds with a tragic love story.

The drama itself is divided into a prologue and three acts that reveal a love story between Mavka - the soul of the young girl who died without being baptized, and a boy Lukasz - a dreamer who plays the flute, which is very different from his family of farmers. They experienced many obstacles, including those imposed on them by their family and society. For Lukasz, marriage, the ability to work in the garden and to please the mother-in-law are ordinary traditions, but for Mavka is not clear how it can be connected with love.

At one point, Lukasz gives up on their relationship and Mavka runs away. In the end, Mavka's love will survive custody in the devil's underground world and aimless wanders. After that, she will turn into a willow that will burn in front of Lukasz.

The prologue and the first act are about the beauty of nature, childish naivety and the perception of love, which, after all, is the truest. Full of spatial descriptions of this nature and emotions.

The second act is about how it breaks down into the worldview of ordinary people and the reaction to it from the point of view and experience of Mavka, who lived her whole life with the rule "all or nothing at all".

The third act is a preparation for the new appearance of Mavka and Lukasz's stagnation because of his lost love. In addition, it shows that Mavka's maximalism is not really that "childish naiveté". It is a sincere soul who does not regret her life, which is about to fade away because she sacrifices it for the truest experience that she has ever had. She lived the true life, which does not make sense anymore without her love.

The suite is based on melodies from the Ukrainian region Volyn that Lesia Ukrainka recorded during her expeditions, which were interpreted by Kateryna in her own way of composing. Lesia placed 16 melodies at the end of the book - during the drama, the main character Lukasz, "plays" them on the flute. In the suite, they are performed in the same order in combination with fragments from monologues and dialogues.

At the same time, this musical form is spontaneous, with many improvised parts, which in a way symbolises the tendency of mythical creatures to impermanence, total freedom and lightness.

The Forest Song suite can be called the first interpretation of this drama in contemporary improvisational music.

Kateryna Ziabliuk



Kateryna Ziabliuk is a pianist, composer, and journalist. Based in Poland.

Comes from Kyiv and has studied in Katowice, Krakow and Milan. Raised in a family of artists and, surrounded by various directions of art, started playing the piano and singing at the age of 6. She is one of the most promising figures on the Ukrainian music scene. In her work, she uses the language of modern jazz, but at the same time, does not hesitate to use elements of traditional music and explore the cultural heritage of his homeland.

In 2019, based on a poem by Lesia Ukrainka, she recorded an improvised suite with her trio, *Lisova Pisnya* (Forest Song). At the invitation of the Katowice JazzArt Festival in 2022, she reinterpreted the piece in a duet with the leading Polish singer Natalia Kordiak. The performance gave rise to the TANŌK project. In 2020, her first solo album appeared and got the name *Borders Make You Grow*, which was created literally in room conditions during the first months of the pandemic. After a year, she published the live album from the Enjoy Jazz Festival in Ludwigshafen, which contained variations of original and folk songs from the previous album.

Ziabliuk collaborated with the Balkan folk band Kriva Drina, where she played the accordion, sang and co-created the arrangements, and, among others, she is a part of the O.N.E Quartet, – one of the most interesting phenomena of the Polish jazz scene of the last decade. Kateryna co-creates many permanent and one-off projects at festival invitations, including with members of the Australian Art Orchestra, SonCe Trio, Lumpeks, Unleashed Cooperation, The Black Sea Songs and many more. Occasionally, she participates in performances and composes for young film makers. Since that she has made numerous appearances all over Europe, which she intensified in the face of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, by choice of acting as the "cultural ambassador" of Ukraine in the Western world.

In addition, she is a co-founder and editor of the Meloport, where she publishes her texts devoted to improvised music, curator of the free impro laboratory Smaczne in Krakow, and former art director of Contra Jazz Club, which, despite its short existence, was an educational open stage for young Ukrainian musicians, where they could experiment with new projects, share the knowledge and networking.

Natalia Kordiak

<https://www.facebook.com/natalia.kordiakmusic>



Natalia Kordiak is a singer, improviser, composer.

The artist was nominated for the award of the Polish Phonographic Academy "FRYDERYK 2020" in the PHONOGRAPHIC DEBUT OF THE YEAR - JAZZ category.

An exploring artist speaking her own language of improvisation. In music, he values the authenticity of dialogue, being present and creating a space in which the boundary between reason and madness is blurred, and reality becomes an abstraction. Her voice, apart from the broadly understood singing, is treated as another instrument using various means of expression.

In 2018, she founded her original band Natalia Kordiak Quintet, with which she performs jazz music with elements of improvised music. Together with Alan Wykpiasz, Mateusz Kołakowski, Przemysław Chmiel and Grzegorz Pałka, they create musical stories that are listened to and experienced at the same time. The debut author's album of Natalia Kordiak Quintet - *BAJKA* was appreciated by international music media and only after a few months was included in the summaries of the best jazz albums of 2019 by Jazz Forum Magazine and Polish.jazz.blogspot. Grand Prix winner - Voicingers 2018 - International Jazz Contest for Singing Musicians. In 2022, co-founder of the band TANŌK, which she co-creates with the Ukrainian jazz pianist Kateryna Ziabliuk.

She has performed on many music stages and festivals in Poland (Jazz Juniors 2020, Poznań: Komeda Maraton 2020. Music of whispers, Blue Note Poznań Competition, Tarnów Jazz Contest, Voicingers

Festival, NOSPR, National Philharmonic, SPATiF) and abroad, including in Denmark, Czech Republic, Latvia or England.

For many years she collaborated with the National Philharmonic in Warsaw during educational jazz concerts for children and youth. She is also the coordinator of the Polish edition of the Voicingers festival in Żory. In 2021 she worked as the organizer of the international Jazzbus Showcase in cooperation with the Voicingers festival and the Slovak label Hevhetia.

Master of Arts at the Jazz Department of the Academy of Music Karol Szymanowski in Katowice and a graduate of "Bednarska" Henryk Majewski Music School in Warsaw.

Links

<https://linktr.ee/tanoksounds>

<https://katerynaziabliuk.bandcamp.com/album/pie-lasu-forest-song>

<https://facebook.com/tanoksounds>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdr7-YUwuyw> *

** The attached link contains the recording of a live performance during the Silent Film Festival 2022 and can be used only for introductory purposes. This is the property of TANŌK and the author - Przemysław Kleczkowski.*

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SHORT BIO

TANŌK is a female duo from Poland/Ukraine, which make free jazz sound like a Slavic folk ritual. The band was established spontaneously, intuitively, as the music we create. “*Tanok*” means a particular group dance, which is performed usually in spring to call the energy of nature, from which we are inspired. Since that is not a typical music concert, but the performance with dances, colourful lights, screams and laughs. We create the musical ritual.

Our first program is called **PIEŚŃ LASU**, which is an improvised suite based on the drama of the same title by the writer Lesia Ukrainka. Piesn Lasu is a love story between a human and a mythological creature, at the same time it is a collective image of the mythology of the Ukrainian region of Volyn.

Members:

/Kateryna Ziabliuk/ is a pianist, singer, composer, and author of articles on the Ukrainian media platform Meloport about improvisational music.

Graduated from the Faculty of Jazz Piano at the Academy of Music in Kyiv, later at the Academy of Music in Krakow, and currently graduating from Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi di Milano. She has been performing with her bands at Leopold Jazz Festival, Jazz Bez, Bielska Zadymka Jazzowa, Jazztopad Festival, Katowice JazzArt Festival, Piano City Milano, and Enjoy Jazz Festival.

/Natalia Kordiak/ is a Polish singer from Łódź. Graduated from the Academy of Music Karol Szymanowski in Katowice. Winner of the international competition Prix Voicingers 2018. With her quintet, she won second prize at the Tarnów Jazz Contest 2017 and awards at the Blue Note Poznań Competition 2017. In autumn 2019, her debut album entitled Bajka was released. Kordiak was nominated for Fryderyk 2020 in the category "Phonographic Debut of the Year".

