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## Irena Jaročka

### Star of Syracuse Polish Festival



Irena Jaročka has been one of Polish pop's most inescapable faces since the 1960s. Between the Oder River and the

Byelorussian frontier, her graceful, emotional singing puts her in the first rank of stars. Many critics call her the Polish Barbra Streisand, since her steady march of hits stretches back 30 years, practically without pause.

She was a member of the elite star team of national artists. In the rough-and-tumble of the new democracy, her iconic status has survived even the Old Testament flood of Western pop, rock, hip-hop and techno that has engulfed Eastern Europe, not to mention the homegrown uprisings in punk, electronica and death metal. Her popularity in Poland even outlasted her 1991 relocation to the United States.



### **Irena Jaročka, Polish Diva**

While oppressed under communist rule for nearly 50 years, the spirit of the Polish people survived through its

music, culture and religions. The communists publicly banned God, but the Poles produced John Paul II under their rule. Knowing they could not effectively silence the music, the state run media produced its own Iron Curtain icons of song. Madonna or Cher? Not exactly. Any Pole who experienced the 1970s and `80s under communist rule, however, will

recognize the voice of one of its appointed divas: Irene Jarocka. Her singing skills and sultry charm convinced the pop-culture puppeteers to pull the strings behind her stardom, hits and albums. She survived the changing trends, morphing her sound and style to tickle an ear and raise an eyebrow. Irena Jarocka retained her celebrity even after the Solidarity movement led to the fall of communism in Central Europe. She was the person the government wanted Poles to hear, but apparently the old government was right on this one. Irena Jarocka's skills as a singer and personal charisma transcended the politics of the day or decade. Given her place in the history of Polish music was firmly established, Jarocka decided to explore the rest of the world. She emigrated to the United States in 1991, and she continues to perform today. Irena Jarocka didn't come to America with the hope of being a musical star here; she came to share a bit of history and music that rarely found on American airwaves. "I decided that here, what is important is to introduce Americans to international music, to songs from around the world," Jarocka says. "I learned that when you sing with your heart, they will feel your emotions, and they will feel your soul." Music is indeed the universal language. Irena Jarocka often sings in a different tongue, but it's one that speaks to everyone on some level. Her concerts provide insights into how Central Europe perceived Western musical styles and infused them with Polish culture. Having spent most of her life on stage, Irena Jarocka is comfortable playing to any crowd. Whether on a festival grandstand, casino lounge, dance hall or church, her mission is to entertain and share her culture with her new audience. "American people have told me, after they hear me sing in Polish, 'I had a tingle in my skin when you sang. With my skin, I felt your songs,'" Irena Jarocka says. "That is what I love to hear."

### **SELECTED ALBUMS:**

#### **W cieniu dobrego drzewa**

1.Spiwam pod gołym niebem, 2.Motylem jestem, 3.Zgubiłam to wszystko, 4.Co mnie w tobie zachwyciło, 5.Wymyśliłam cie, 6.Wierze w siebie zakochani, 7.temat z filmu "Pozegnanie o swiecie", 8.Nie wróca te lata, 9.W cieniu dobrego drzewa, 10.Ty i ja - wczoraj dzis, 11.Te linie te kola, 12.Poloniny niebieskie, 13.temat z filmu "Pozegnanie o swiecie", bonus tracks: 14.Na złotym Wybrzeżu, 15.Kocham

#### **Gondolierzy z nad Wisły**

1.By coś zostało z tych dni, 2.To co zdarza się raz, 3.Przeczcucie, 4.Jeszcze tyle przed nami, 5.W świecie nocy w mroku dnia, 6.Kocha się raz, 7.Gondolierzy z nad Wisły, 8.Chłopcy z weselszych lat, 9.Te same noce i dni, 10.Sto lat czekam na Twój list, 11.Zawsze pójdę z toba, 12.Kawiarenki, bonus tracks: 13.Spiwam pod gołym niebem, 14.Wymyśliłam cie, 15.Nie wróca te lata, 16.W cieniu dobrego drzewa

#### **Wigilijne życzenia**

1.Samotnie koledować zle, 2.Gwiazda Nocy Wigilijnej, 3.Jeszcze dzisiaj pamiętam, 4.Przywróć tamten czas, 5.Biały pejzaz, 6.Dżyn, dzyn, 7.Koleda nowoprojektowana, 8.Biały świat i białe Boże Narodzenie, 9.To coś znaczyć musi, 10.Usnij ze mi, usnij, 11.Koleda o miłowaniu moim, 12.Wigilijne życzenia, 13.Post scriptum świąteczne

### **Byc narzeczona twa**

1.Na radosne gody, 2.Wszystko dam, 3.Byl ktos,  
4.Przeoczone, zawinione, 5.Jaki zapamietam swiat, 6.Nie wiadomo, który dzien, 7.Byc narzeczona twa, 8.Nocne telefony, 9.Przebudz sie, 10.Byles sloncem moich dni, bonus track: 11.Nadzieja

### **Odplywaja kawiarenki / Zlota kolekcja**

1.Gondolierzy znad Wisly, 2.Spiwam pod gołym niebem,  
3.Chlopcy z weselnych lat, 4.Co mnie w Tobie zachwycilo,  
5.Niech tancza nasze serca, 6.Wymyslilam Cie, 7.Nie wróca te lata, 8.Sto lat czekam na Twój list, 9.Jeszcze tyle przed nami,  
10.Byl ktos, 11.Te same noce i dni, 12.To co zdarza sie raz,  
13.Kocha sie raz, 14.Mój słodki Charlie, 15.Motylem jestem,  
16.By coc zostalo z tych dni, 17.Odplywaja kawiarenki, 18.Byc narzeczona Twa, 19.Piosenka spod welonu, 20.Mam temat na zycie, 21.Beatlemania story, 22.Stare lzy, 23.Kababa z 7 kart

### **Wielkie Przeboje**

Gondolierzy znad Wisly, Spiwam pod gołym niebem, Co mnie w tobie zachwycilo, Niech tancza nasze serca, Nie wróca te lata, Wymyslilam cie, 100 lat czekam na twój list, Jeszcze wszystko przed nami, Byl ktos, To co zdarza sie raz, Kocha sie raz, Motylem jestem, By cos zostalo z tych dni, Odplywaja kawiarenki, Byc narzeczona twa, Beatlemania story, Póki drzewa jeszcze w kwiatach, Stare lzy

### **My French favourites**

1. L' ete 42, 2. Les moulins de mon coeur, 3. Mon homme, 4. Dis moi, 5. Ne me quitte pas, 6. Les parapluies de Cherbourg, 7. Les feuilles morfes, 8. La maison sur les arbres, 9. La valse des lilas, 10. Plaisir d' amour.

### **Moj wielki sen**

1. Tam gdzie serce, tam moj dom, 2. Kabala z siedmiu kart, 3. Baw sie i ciesz , 4. Magia ksiezycy, 5. Moj wielki sen, 6. Otworz serce, 7. Caly swiat jest maly tak, 8. Dancing all night with a stranger, 9. We wspólnym snie, 10. Ty i ja to serca dwa, 11. Nie chce znowu sama byc, 12. Dance re-mix.

## **Play Video - "Irena Jarocka - Kawiarenki "**

