

# Mp3 Brian Marshall And His Tex-slavic Playboys - Texas Lowlands

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Traditional Polkas, songs and obereks as played by a modern Texas-Polish dance band. 12 MP3 Songs

FOLK: Traditional Folk, WORLD: Polka Details: Check out this great new CD of Texas Polish Polka music by Houston based fiddler Brian Marshall. Several small towns in Texas -- New Waverly, Chappel Hill and Bremond, to name a few -- were settled by Poles that immigrated to the Lone Star State in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. As a result, these communities have fostered a style of music that connects them over time and space to the villages of Poland. This down-home style utilizes the instruments that were readily available on the rural American landscape at the time -- violin, bass, guitar and accordion but has largely avoided the brass sound that became popular among American Poles in more northern urban areas. To this day, the western swing-tinged polkas and obereks performed by Texas Poles still can be heard at weddings, family reunions and other community events. A fourth generation musician of Polish ancestry, Brian Marshall (nee Marszalek) started playing music at the age of 7 and he likely learned his first Polish tune at 8. Brians grandfather was a fiddler, from Bremond, Texas the single largest Polish settlement in the state until the Second World War and from him Brian learned a true affection for the old music. As a teenager, Brian played in a country band that would flip to its Polish set list for the right community events. By his late 20s Brian realized an entire generation of Texas Polish musicians were disappearing and their repertoires with them. In response, he started recording himself and many of the older players to ensure that the music was not lost. His passion for this effort has resulted in two acclaimed and currently available recording projects, the self-produced "Polish Roots" and "Texas Kapela", on Arhoolie Records. Song List: 1. Grasshopper Polka A polka with German origins but very popular amongst Texas Poles 2. Flat Lake Special A popular waltz from Bremond, from the repertoire of fiddler Steve Okonski. 3. Hyman Special An oberek learned from fiddler William Hyman (Hajman) of New Wavery, TX. Collected on a road trip with my friend Frank Motley. With the complete absence of minor key tunes in Texas, we were astonished to hear William play this tune with a minor section. Or at the age of 83 was he just playing flat? Your guess is as good as ours. 4. Cendalski Special

The great Daniel Cendalski played this one for me on his front porch in Brenham, TX. 5. Drunk Jake A Polish drinking song sung by both Chappel Hill and Bremond Poles. 6. White Chimney This is Bremonds Bride Dance song performed at weddings. 7. Blue Skirt Waltz A beautiful and well loved Czech waltz. Probably still the most requested waltz at dances in Texas. 8. Where is my Gray Horse These lyrics were sung to me by Ike Modzrejewski a couple of months prior to his death. A favorite foot stomper in Chappel Hill and Brenham TX. 9. No Reason to Go Home A very popular Bremond Waltz taught to me by Joe Bartula. He actually had the words written down as sung by his mother Aniela Bartula. 10. Wedding Marches As DJs become increasingly popular I thought it time to put the Marches on CD so that Texas Poles would have appropriate music for the Grand March as opposed to some hokey northern Polka version of Roll out the Barrel that the DJ picked up at Wal Mart. 11. Ikes polka Ike Modzrejewski loved to sing this one! 12. Village Oberek Fiddler Joe Kujawa recorded this tune some years ago as he remembered it being played by Steve Okonski. I recently dug up some old recordings of Steve from the late 40s that had the complete version and I like it. A LOT!

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