

= Megitza =

Ma?gorzata Babiarz , professionally known as Megitza , (born November 27 , 1984 in Zakopane) is a Polish singer , double bass player , and composer . She combines Polish and Eastern European folk music , Romani music and gypsy jazz with world music , Latin music , pop , worldbeat , Americana and reggae .

In 2001 , Megitza emigrated to Chicago , where she appeared in charity concerts and events such as Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity and where she promoted Polish culture . She began her professional career in 2008 , when she formed the Megitza Quartet and released her debut album , Boleritza . She has since performed at the Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion , the 13th All Souls Jazz festival at the Chopin Theatre , the Chicago World Music Festival , and the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago . The Chicago Sun @-@ Times has noted the quartet 's " energetic " performances . According to the Chicago Tribune she and the group are primarily influenced by Eastern European folk , gypsy , Polish , and Greek music . Songs include " Boleritza " , " Mamo te Mera " , " Ciska " , " 17 _ 14 " , and " What I Desire " .

= = Biography = =

Megitza was born on November 27 , 1984 in Zakopane , Poland . In 2001 , she migrated to Chicago , where she has continued the cultivation of her Polish heritage , but also experimented with world music and gypsy music of Eastern Europe and Latin music . In 2003 , Megitza was appointed the queen of the Polish Highlanders Alliance of North America . She organized a charity event , and proceeds were donated to orphanages in Poland . As a musician , Megitza has participated in charity concerts and events such as Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity . In 2004 , Megitza received the highest score (126) at the Polish National intelligence quotient (IQ) contest in Chicago . She promotes the culture of Poland and Podhale in Chicago and the United States .

Megitza is a self @-@ taught vocalist and bass player . She began her career in 2008 , when she formed the Megitza Quartet . The band is currently composed of Megitza on vocals and upright bass , Andreas Kapsalis on acoustic guitar , Marek Lichota on bayan (accordion) , and Jamie Gallagher on drums and percussion . The Megitza Quartet is known for its high energy stage presence , and the quartet has been compared to artists such as Gypsy Kings , Ewa Demarczyk , Goran Bregovi? , Kayah and Lura . In 2008 , Megitza released her debut album , Boleritza . The album includes traditional and original compositions . Roby Lakatos is a guest violinist on Boleritza , on two tracks : " Mamo Temera " and " 17 _ 14 " .

Her original compositions are primarily influenced by folk music of Polish highlanders (gorals of Podhale) , Romani music , Balkan folk and World music . The Chicago Tribune notes Eastern European folk and " gypsy , Greek , and Polish influences " . Notable songs include " Boleritza " , " Mamo te Mera " , " Ciska " and " 17 _ 14 " .

= = Performances and reception = =

Megitza is regarded as an influential artist representing Poles abroad . She has made hundreds of concerts and appearances at major festivals in America , especially in Chicago , including the Old Town School of Folk Music in August 2009 , the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival in September 2009 , the Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in March 2010 , at the lakefront in Dawes Park in July 2010 , the Chicago World Music Festival (an event presented by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) , in partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture (COTC)) , in September 2011 , the Chicago Folk and Roots Festival in July 2011 , the Chicago Summer Dance Festival , and Taste of Chicago , all in her adopted city . They also performed at the All Souls Jazz festival held at the Chopin Theatre of Chicago in November 2010 , an event which Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune said " Chicago 's All Souls fest looks , feels and sounds like no other jazz soiree in this city " . In July 2009 they performed the Slovak Roma wedding song " Mamko Moja " live on ABC7 's " Chicagoining " with Bill

Campbell . Time Out Chicago described her as a " fiery " singer and the band 's music as " energetic Roma folk " when they performed at " Women 's Global Voices " with the likes of Ugochi and The Afro Soul Ensemble in March 2012 , a concert presented by Sound Culture honoring Women 's History Month . " The Chicago Sun @-@ Times has also noted the " energetic " performances of the quartet .

The Sound Culture Center for Global Arts described Megitza as " a true concert revelation ? an unusual voice , charisma and beauty " , describing her music as " dynamic , vibrant , full of energy , uniting listeners of all ages . " Jazz Chicago said of the 2008 album , " Throughout , Babariaz 's strong vocals engage the senses , while Lichota 's romantic accordion is a treat as well . The blend of traditional folk music and originals are played and sung very well and make for an intriguing visit to the Old World . " Although Megitza mainly performs in the United States , in July 2012 she performed at the Jazz Fest Wien in Vienna , Austria , and the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux , Switzerland , before performing extensively in Poland .

In Poland , the Megitza Quartet reached the finals of the fifth edition of Must Be the Music , and in 2015 the Megitza Trio entered the eighth season of Mam talent ! , the Polish version of Got Talent , earning a " golden key " to advance directly to the semifinals .

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums = = =

= = = Music videos = = =