



One of the hottest music bands on the current Polish musical scene and the only one that has truly successfully combined Polish highland folk with contemporary sounds.

Sometimes labelled as folk rock, Zakopower escapes all manner of classification – their music, originally inspired by the Podhale Polish highlands musical tradition equally features rock aesthetics, clever use of electronics, drawing on jazz influences as well as incorporating African beats - the overall mix resulting in a truly unique, authentic and strong sound – fun, lively, infectious and instantly recognizable.

Named after the highland town Zakopane situated in the Tatra mountains and founded by a phenomenal violinist Sebastian Karpiel Bulecka, the band is seen as one of Poland's most popular bands ever. Their all four albums are **bestsellers**, and were honoured the most important Polish awards, album "Boso" (2011) has reached status **Triple Platinum Album**.

Their interesting instrumentation includes violin, highland bass, bagpipes and highland flute. Unlike many ethno/folk inspired groups of today rather than unashamedly borrow from existing melodies, the band develop and present entirely new original compositions - an ingenious mix of traditional and modern– drawing on folk aesthetics and technique but yet allowing it to develop and expand and bringing it in tune with the 21st century – theirs is a truly creative and progressive approach to making music. This is music with rare truthfulness to it and masses of positive energy and it cuts through any language or cultural barriers, easily reaching and intriguing audiences from all backgrounds. Skilled musicians, known predominantly for the very highly charged energetic performances, they are a versatile ensemble with a vast and varied repertoire that delivers equally well at large outdoor shows as well as more intimate clubs and acoustic stages.



They have recorded and performed with **Nigel Kennedy** and **Goran Bregovic** as well as collaborated with leading musicians from the Polish popular scene (Kayah, Voo Voo, T.Love, Grzegorz Turnau and others) and the jazz scene (Nigel Kennedy Quintet, Robert Majewski, Zbigniew Namysłowski, Atom String Quartet)



`Media quotes

“Zakopower are to highlander music what the Pogues are to Irish music. Even if you can’t understand a word of it you will love it.”

“All my friends have gone crazy about Zakopower. Everybody’s bought their album”

Nigel Kennedy

“Undoubtedly the most popular polish group ever”

Nigel Kennedy’s Polish Weekend, Southbank Centre

“(…)emerging polish musical talent, a fiery folk group Zakopower”

Jazzwise Magazine

“(…the violinist Sebastian Karpiel – Butecka leads Zakopower. (..)The band is one of Poland’s most popular groups“

Time Out

„(…) Sebastian Karpiel – Butecka, of Zakopower: his violin became an electrified bird, flying and trilling with mesmerising high speed-elan“

1st June 2010 The Times,

Geoff Brown „Nigel Kennedy’s World Cup Project at the Clore Ballroom“ (Southbank Centre)

*„Best band The great thing about Zakopower is that even my Polish friends can’t understand what the f**k they’re saying ‘cos it’s in Goralic mountain dialect. It’s a bit like how Americans can’t understand Irish. Zakopower play a semi-techno, popular adaptation of highlander music. It’s kind of folky with violins but they’ve got a good edge of pop consciousness“*

Nigel Kennedy, The Times, 21st May 2010, Emma Pomfret „Nigel Kennedy Jams with the Pole Cats“