



## MARCIN WASILEWSKI TRIO *formerly known as Simple Acoustic Trio*

### BIOGRAPHY

**Marcin Wasilewski**- piano, leader

**Slawomir Kurkiewicz**- double bass

**Michal Miskiewicz**- drums



The Marcin Wasilewski Trio is one of the brightest stars of the Polish jazz scene, recognised for their unique talent in blending tradition with contemporary sound. The Marcin Wasilewski Trio is considered one of the most acclaimed and unique jazz formations of its generation, and it has garnered recognition in its native Poland as well as abroad.

The Trio is present on the jazz scene from the beginning of the 1990s, first as Simple Acoustic Trio, and from 2008 as Marcin Wasilewski Trio travelling around all continents to present their music. They were members of Tomasz Stanko Quartet for 15 years, the longest collaborators of Stanko. They are ECM recording artists also as a Trio ('Trio' 2003, 'January' 2007 and 'Faithful' 2011 and „Spark Of Life” 2014).

They are not only known for their outstanding records with Tomasz Stanko for the prestigious ECM label, but also from working together with masters of improvisation such as Jan Garbarek, Gianluigi Trovesi, John Surman, Louis Sclavis, Arthur Blythe, Joe Lovano, Bernt Rosengren, Dino Saluzzi, Bobo Stenson, Anders Jormin, Manu Katche and Jon Christensen, just to name a few.

The leader, Marcin Wasilewski (piano), was nominated for the "Paul Acket Award" in 2009. This music prize is awarded annually to a young artist who has chosen his or her own way in jazz music and hence deserves more recognition. The nominees are selected by an international committee of jazz critics. Paul Acket Award is associated with the North Sea Jazz Festival in Rotterdam. Another highlights of 2005 and 2011 was Down Beat Annual Critics Polls in which Wasilewski was listed as a „rising piano star”.

Marcin and Slawomir began playing jazz together as 15-year old students at the Koszalin High School of Music. Their first trio was for medin the 1989 as SIMPLE ACOUSTIC TRIO. In 1993 drummer Michal Miskiewicz, son of noted Polish alto sax player Henryk Miskiewicz, joined them, and the group's line-up has been stable ever since. As the Simple Acoustic Trio they won awards in Poland and issued five albums on local labels. (Their early emphasis on *Komeda* awakened Tomasz Stanko's interest in the group, and through the 1990s they collaborated with the trumpeter on projects, beginning with theatre music; by the decade's end, they'd progressed to become his regular band. In 2001 their work together was documented, to public acclaim, on the Stanko Quartet album *Soul of Things*, recorded by ECM in 2001, followed by *Suspended Night* in 2003, and *Lontano* in 2005.

Their first international release by Wasilewski/Kurkiewicz/Miskiewicz, entitled just "Trio" was recorded in 2004 and released the following year, immediately winning the Quarterly Prize of the German Record Critics. In the US, too, critics were taking notice. "Their years together have resulted in an ensemble with an utterly symbiotic creative flow," noted Don Heckman in the *Los Angeles Times*. Subsequent ECM recordings were *January* (recorded 2007) and *Faithful* (2010).

"This trio is now one of the finest in jazz, its mutual ease and intuition something to marvel at," wrote Ray Comiskey in *The Irish Times*: "Musically and extra-musically it remains a co-operative; Wasilewski's a kind of aural painter who puts the colours on the group's canvases while the others shape and highlight them, in a kind of impressionism that allows the trio's fluid interaction free... rein and permits the band to evoke, sustain and resolve a considerable mood spectrum."

Special guest **Joakim Milder** was born in Stockholm in 1965. At home in many aspects of the tradition, he always serves the needs of the work at hand, simultaneously engaged and cool-toned, resolutely musical. Milder joins the trio for a tour of Poland in October. In November the core Wasilewski Trio takes the *Spark Of Life* programme to Argentina.

This is the trio's second ECM appearance in a matter of months, following on from sterling work as Jacob Young's rhythm section on *Forever Young*.

At the end of November 2014., just six weeks after release has obtained the status of "Golden Album" and received many honours: "Album of the Year 2014" and „ACOUSTIC BAND Of The Year" by Jazz Forum, and the most prestigious Music Award in Poland FRYDERYK: for BEST ALBUM of The YEAR, and Marcin Wasilewski has received his statue of FRYDERYK in ARTIST OF The YEAR category.

### Selected recordings:

#### With Tomasz Stańko:

Soul of Things, ECM, 2001  
Suspended Night, ECM, 2004  
Lontano, ECM, 2006

#### Marcin Wasilewski Trio:

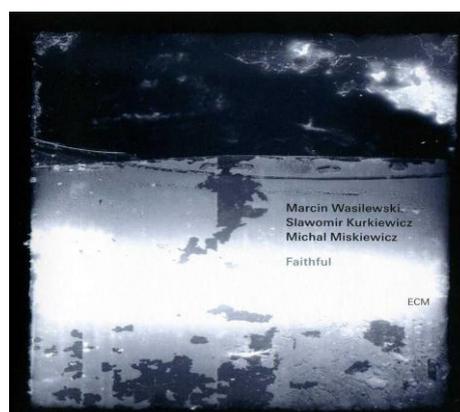
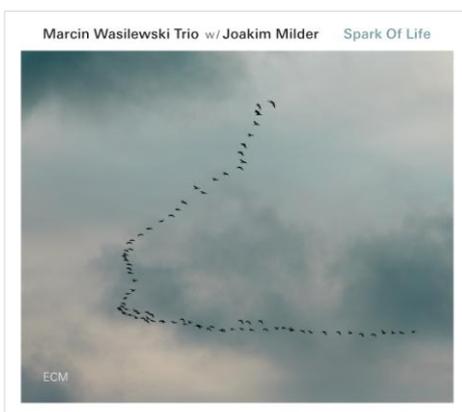
Spark Of Life, ECM, 2014  
January, ECM, 2008  
Faithful, ECM, 2011

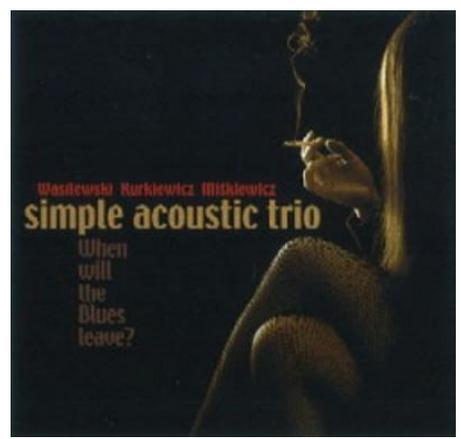
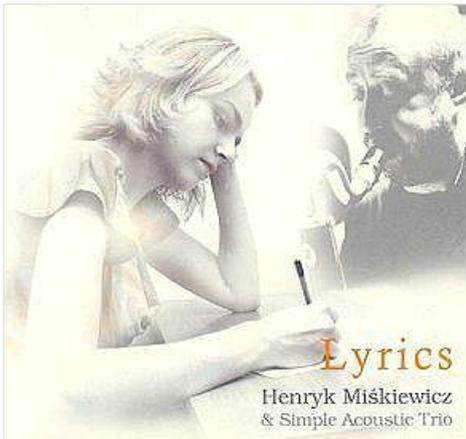
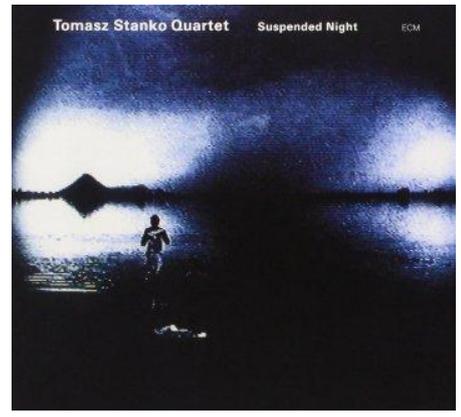
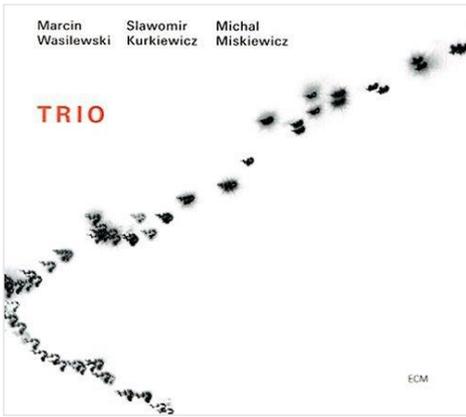
#### Simple Acoustic Trio:

Komeda, Gowi Records, 1995  
When Will The Blues Leave, Polonia Records, 1996  
Live in Getxo, Hillargi Records, 1996  
Habanera, Not Two, 2000  
Lyrics (with Henryk Miskiewicz), Grami, 2001  
Trio, ECM, 2005

#### With Manu Katché:

Neighbourhood, ECM, 2005  
Playground, ECM, 2007 (Marcin Wasilewski- piano,  
Slawomir Kurkiewicz- double-bass)





## PRESS

*“Marcin Wasilewski does not think like other jazz pianists, His improvisational underpinning, his sense of musical space and his aural imagery are so fresh they are initially mysterious, then get more so. The same can be said of his trio as a whole with bassist Slawomir Kurkiewicz and drummer Michal Miskiewicz...It takes nerve for a young trio to create music of such stillness, such patience. The fact that the three have played together since they were teenagers is audible in the way they trust the epiphanies they collectively come upon.”* - Thomas Conrad, Jazz Times

*"Their years together have resulted in an ensemble with an utterly symbiotic creative flow."*

Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times

*"The key note here is one of an unhurried yet acutely focused lyricism. Wasilewski's touch and phrasing are quite superb, soulful and elegant in equal measure while Kurkiewicz and Miskiewicz are in total tune with the pianist's deliciously intelligent, subtly deployed sense of rhythm and dynamics. ... An utterly compelling album, from three of Europe's finest".*

Michael Tucker, Jazz Journal International

*"Supported with great subtlety and intensity by Kurkiewicz and Miskiewicz, January is an important step on the road to artistic maturity by an artist with the potential to become a significant voice on his instrument."*

Stuart Nicholson, Jazzwise

*"This is the young Polish piano trio that surfaced with that country's veteran jazz-trumpet star Tomasz Stanko a few years back, and made a big impact on their own account with their debut for ECM in 2005. Part of the group's secret is the patient ease with which they intertwine impressionistic music and powerful pulses, and here Wasilewski's strong originals once again give much of the set its backbone. ... As with the last Wasilewski album, it may not appear to be trying to hit you between the eyes, but in the long run it does that anyway."*

John Fordham, The Guardian

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Thomas Conrad, Jazz Times

## MEDIA

Selected reviews and informations about the M. Wasilewski Trio / and their ECM albums and concerts:

### „Trio” 2005

[http://www.ecmrecords.com/Background/Background\\_1891.php](http://www.ecmrecords.com/Background/Background_1891.php)

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/15767-trio-marcin-wasilewski-slawomir-kurkiewicz-and-michal-miskiewicz>

### „January” 2008

[http://www.ecmrecords.com/Press\\_Reactions/ECM/2000/Pressreactions\\_2019.php](http://www.ecmrecords.com/Press_Reactions/ECM/2000/Pressreactions_2019.php)

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/19945-january-marcin-wasilewski-trio>

<http://www.allmusic.com/album/january-mw0000784597>

### „Faithful” 2011

<http://www.ecmrecords.com/Background/2208.php>

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/27667-faithful-marcin-wasilewski-trio>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/music/2011/apr/21/marcin-wasilewski-trio-faithful-review>

### **„Spark Of Life” 2014**

<http://www.downbeat.com/defaultl.asp?sect=reviews>

<http://thejazzbreakfast.com/2014/11/03/marcin-wasilewski-trio-w-joakim-milder-spark-of-life/>

<http://www.jazzweekly.com/2014/10/marcin-wasilewski-trio-w-joakim-milder-spark-of-life/>

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/147631-spark-of-life-marcin-wasilewski-trio-with-joakim-milder>

[http://www.allaboutjazz.com/spark-of-life-marcin-wasilewski-ecm-records-review-by-karl-ackermann.php#.VCRzh\\_lDXms](http://www.allaboutjazz.com/spark-of-life-marcin-wasilewski-ecm-records-review-by-karl-ackermann.php#.VCRzh_lDXms)

<http://www.londonjazznews.com/2015/11/review-marcin-wasilewski-trio-and-helen.html>

<http://www.marlbank.net/interviews/2103-flickering-flames>

### **Other /selected**

<http://journalofmusic.com/criticism/live-reviews-tomasz-stanko-quartet>

<http://jazztimes.com/articles/17908-tomasz-stanko-quartet-at-the-earshot-jazz-festival>

<http://www.allaboutjazz.com/php/article.php?id=39310#.UcxBNJwylec>

<http://www.jazz.com/features-and-interviews/2008/11/29/interview-with-marcin-wasilewski>

<http://musicians.allaboutjazz.com/marcinwasilewski>

## **AWARDS and SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **Marcin Wasilewski Trio (formerly known as Simple Acoustic Trio)**

- 1991 - 3rd place in the Jazz Juniors band competition in Kraków
- 1991 - special mention for Marcin Wasilewski at the International Jazz Pianists' Competition in Kalisz
- 1993 - 1st place at the International Festival of Jazz Ensembles Chorus in Sorgues, France
- 1996 - 1st place at the Spanish Getxo '96 jazz competition and an individual award for Marcin Wasilewski
- 1996 – 1st place at Leverkusen Jazz Festival competition and Best Soloist award for Marcin Wasilewski
- 2001- Fryderyk Award in the Jazz Album of the Year for Lyrics
- 2005 - Fryderyk Award in the Jazz Album of the Year for Trio; Fryderyk award for Jazz Artist of the Year (for Marcin Wasilewski)
- 2009 - Fryderyk Award in the Jazz Album of the Year for January; Fryderyk award for Jazz Artist of the Year (for Marcin Wasilewski)
- 2011 - Mateusz Music Award of the National Radio Channel 3 in the Jazz Music category for the record „Faithful”
- 2012 - Fryderyk award for Jazz Artist of the Year (for Marcin Wasilewski)
- 2014 - Acoustic Band of the Year award by the readers of Jazz Forum Magazine
- 2014 – Album Of The Year Award by the readers of Jazz Forum Magazine
- 2015 - Fryderyk Music Award for Jazz Artist of the Year (for Marcin Wasilewski);
- 2015 - Fryderyk Music Award for Jazz Album of the Year for „Spark Of Life”