## Music that Inspired Several Texas and American Country Classics

By Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz Sept. 14, 2020

Songs featured in this narrative: "Westphalia Waltz" "Maiden's Prayer"

"Put your little foot" "Cattle Call"

Below is a Facebook post from last November 2019. https://www.facebook.com/jim.mazurkiewicz.5/posts/10156775018915308

Texas Country Songs originating from Polish Melodies: Today, I was inspired to post information about a few Texas dance hall classics I learned recently originating from Poland. Thanks to the documentary that Joe Weed and Brian Marshall did a few years ago about the origin of "The Westphalia Waltz". The original name of the melody is the well-known Polish song "Pytała Się Pani". With the upcoming Polish American Council of Texas (PACT) meeting in Bandera, Texas "The Cowboy Capital of the World", I thought I would post a few interesting facts highlighting our Polish contributions to the Texas Music Culture. Two additional melodies originating from Poland were "Maiden's Prayer" and "Put Your Little Foot". All three were classic Texas country dance hall songs that were very popular when I was growing up and they are still popular today. Below, I have the English name of the song and the Polish name of the

melody. Also, I have the Wikipedia website for more information and a YouTube video for you to hear the song.



Westphalia Waltz - "Pytała Się Pani" <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westphalia\_Waltz</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEEa2Epxweg</u> (Texas) <u>http://www.joeweed.com/documentaries/westphalia\_waltz.htm</u>

Maiden's Prayer - "Modlitwa Panny Młodej" <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maiden%27s\_Prayer</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6V8JHnJsPw</u> (Texas)

Put Your Little Foot - "Varsovienne" French meaning from Warsaw: The rage of Europe in 1850 - A Mazurek

<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varsovienne</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHDFnKSyr9A</u> (Texas) <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxudOVyo\_kU</u> (Mexico)

## Another song to research and study: "Cattle Call"

The most famous song "Cattle Call" and the story behind the story of one of the greatest songs of the West! It is said that this first time it was recorded was in 1934 by Texas Fletcher, but it is said it was inspired by the Polish song "Walc Pawła" from Chicago. In 1927 Władysław

Ochrymowicz published the song in *Victor's 1927* Polish catalog. Bruno Rudziński, Władysław Polak and Stanisław Mermel, who lived in Chicago, recorded it for *Victor*, a recording company. One song, "Walc Pawła" (Paul's Waltz) (Victor V-16114), is the melody later claimed by Tex Fletcher who popularized it in the 1930's (as did Eddy Arnold again in the 1940's) as "The Cattle Call".

Page 144 on the website below:

 $\label{eq:https://books.google.com/books?id=_m3-} \\ \hline 7ACUrZoC&pg=PA144&lpg=PA144&dq=Pawel+Waltz+the+melody+for+Cattle+Call&source \\ e=bl&ots=i1167ndUT_&sig=ACfU3U3rVozY104zty22Y34HLmigy2x-\\ dg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwimmoPRud_qAhVHF6wKHa4wBYYQ6AEwCXoECAUQAQ#\\ v=onepage&q=Pawel%20Waltz%20the%20melody%20for%20Cattle%20Call&f=false \\ \hline \end{tabular}$ 

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfkUjrXVc6I

I am most positive that The Polish Museum of America has a copy of this song recorded in 1927 by Bruno Rudziński, Władysław Polak and Stanisław Mermel for *Victor*, a recording company. *https://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/* 

I am confident that there are many more songs to this day that were inspired by Polish immigrants and the melodies that brought with them to the U.S. In the early years, people shared, adopted, and learned melodies from each other before they knew about royalties and copyrights.