

Polish Contribution to Norteño Music

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Redova is Spanish for Polish Dance

<https://www.wordmeaning.org/spanish/redova.htm>

One must remember from 1792 to 1918 Poland did not exist on the world map and 2/3 of Poland was controlled by German speaking countries of Austria and Germany (Prussia). Maximillian I Emperor of Mexico in 1864 introduced the Mazurka into Mexico City as it was the rage of Europe at the time. Today, in Monterrey the 2nd largest city in Mexico located in northern Mexico pays tribute to the Germans, Czechs and Polish people for their contribution to Norteño music in one of the largest and most modern museums in Mexico. History is constantly being re-discovered and at the time Poland did not exist when the mazurka, oberek, polka etc. was being introduced to Mexico and Texas. History is recorded by those in control and in reality, no one felt that Poland during this time would ever re-emerge from the ashes to be a sovereign nation again. In the late 1830's, when the Germans started coming to Texas (with a few people from Poznan in this group), Poland had not been on the map for over 40 years with no hope of re-emergence. In 1864, when Maximillian I brought musicians from Europe, Poland had not existed for over 70 years on the map. In addition, Maximillian I was an Austrian Prince and the second son of an Austrian Emperor of which controlled 1/3 of Poland at this time. Now for some historical facts: The term obertas appeared for the first time in 1679, in a book by Korczyński, Lanczafty. Oberek belongs to the group of dances which feature the so-called mazurka rhythms (see the entry on Mazur for an explanation of this pattern and an example). The dances include kujawiak (the slowest), mazur or mazurka (in a moderate tempo), and oberek (the fastest dance of this group). All three dances are of peasant origin, but due to contact with town people and the nobility, they all underwent considerable changes, especially the mazur and kujawiak. <https://polishmusic.usc.edu/research/dances/oberek/>

Rejdovák - The name comes from the Czech name rejdovák, derived from rej ("whirl"). Originally a folk dance, it first appeared into the salons in Prague in 1829 and fell out of fashion by 1840, though in the meantime it had spread beyond Bohemia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redowa>

In summary, just because someone introduced something does not mean that they developed it. History is documented by those that were in power at the time and today we are constantly re-discovering new information that disputes oral and/or written information that we assumed to be true. The redova is the Spanish word for Polish dance, less active than the Mazurka. The oberek belongs to the mazurka rhythms first document in 1679 and the rejdovák was introduced in Prague in 1829 and both the oberek and the rejdovák mean to spin or twirl. Please keep in mind, Poland was not put back on the map until 1918 and Poland was not a free country until 1989 as communism tried to eliminate and destroy all Polish customs and traditions. In addition, during the German occupation of 2/3's of Poland from 1892 to 1918 and again had control of all of Poland from 1939 to 1945 again tried to destroy Polish identity. We are just now re-discovering new information concerning the contributions of the Polish people that were German or Austrian citizens during the 19th century that came to North and Central America. Moravia (Czech), Bohemia

(Czech) and Galicia (Southeast Poland) were part of the Austrian Empire and Western Poland (Poznan, Bydgoszcz, Gniezno, Torun, Katowice) was under the German Empire (Prussia) in the 19th century, again both German speaking countries. History is complicated, but the truth lies in the trail of evidence discovered one fact at a time and we are just now beginning a new renaissance of discovering more information about the contributions of the Polish people.

POLISHMUSIC.USC.EDU

Oberek (Obertas) - Polish Music Center



Examples:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icloXclypAE>

(this recording is from 1920 and the photo is from 1886)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgRbUP148pk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4T2Np9pdRfE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o21gZqWhKSE&list=PLacb2X35J-4jVzEiF3CLPy26LbQf79iB5>