

# FOLK MUSIC

Folk music is the traditional music of people from a **certain country or region**. This music is played on **acoustic** instruments and was most popular in **rural areas**. Often, folk music has an **oral tradition** of being passed on from one generation to the next.

*Four Stories* by Malecki is based on **Polish folk dances**.

The word 'folk' comes from the German 'volk,' meaning 'the people.'

**ma-zur·ka**  
a lively Polish dance in 3 with strong accents on beat 2 and 3.

- A favorite musical form used by famous classical composer/pianist, Frederic Chopin.
- The mazurka originated from two Polish dances kujawiak and oberek.

**o·ber·ek**  
the fastest of The Five National Dances.

- The beginning and ending of movement 4 are an oberek.
- consists of constant turns and fast steps
- "kapela" (small village bands) often perform these

**ku·ja·wi·ak**  
a slow and melancholic Polish dance in 3

- The middle section of movement 4 is a kujawiak. (listen for the change to a slow tempo!)
- It originated from region in Poland called Kujawy. (see map below)



## History Fact

After WWII, there was a resurgence of interest in traditional folk music in Poland. State-funded folk bands grew in popularity. However, the music was not authentically folk, but rather a blend folk with other Polish styles.

For more history, check out this link!  
<https://polishmusic.usc.edu/research/publications/esays/briefest-history-of-polish-music/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYSviZuFFI4>