

Press release 0801

A yacht in Gdynia is nothing special, a yacht that is in the area for 80 years however is an occasion to celebrate. When this yacht is able to inspire one of the worlds finest composers, Henri Seroka, to create a complete CD with esoteric music, then we really have reasons celebrate together with you, during a press conference and sailing trip on July 25th 2008.



S/Y **Norda** is wooden sailing vessel of about 20 meters, and Gdynia is its Home Port. Her history is closely related to Poland: since her commissioning in 1928 by the Polish Sea Fisheries institute (MIR : Morskie Instytut Rybackie). Her life followed the hardship of Poland. The first years of her life she spend as research vessel in the Baltic Sea. In that time her name was “Ewa” and she was a gaff rigged ketch.

In 1939, she was qualified to be destroyed, but Antoni Budzisz bought her and started to rebuild her as a fishing vessel. During the war this overhaul came to an end and Norda started sailing as a fishing vessel in Puck. During that period she relied on a motor as main power source since her masts got amputated in this process.

In 1945 she was used to flee to Germany by soldiers and postman of the Reich that was falling apart. But she was found back and repatriated. After the war her life continued as a fishing vessel. Her home base was then Władisławowo, and for many years she helped to feed the hungry mouths of the young socialist state.

Till once more she was set ashore to rot and to be forgotten, but once more she was saved; this time by Grzegorz Wózniak. In 1985 he bought her for a symbolic amount, and started a 10 year rebuild. That’s when Norda got back 2 masts. The rig was not the original gaff rigged ketch, but a wishbone ketch (also called “fishbone ketch”) with the typical fixed gaff between the 2 masts.

In 2004 she was bought by Philippe De Brouwer, president of KBC TFI S.A. and Belgian citizen. Since then she flies the Belgian colors, but her homeport remained Gdynia. Her new owner tries together with skipper Kazimierz Hudak to keep her in a true maritime and sea worthy state. But also they want to share this part of history with people that rent the boat or simply allow for free schools on board.

S/Y Norda is a record breaker: the largest and the oldest in his class in the Belgian shipping register, the largest and the oldest in his class in the TryCity, also the rigging is very rare.

Norda has welcomed, served and finally waved goodbye to owners, skippers, and even governmental regimes. But now, she's here to stay. Proud part of the cultural heritage of the Tricity, she continues to work as charter vessel and anyone can sail her.



Just as Norda and her owner, the **famous composer Henri Seroka** is also Belgian-Polish (or Polish-Belgian if you wish). His father served under General Stanisław Maczek who liberated a series of Belgian cities like Ghent, Antwerp, Tiel, and Breda in the Netherlands. After the war his father stayed in Belgium, and Henri grew up in Brussels.

Henri began his musical career as a singer, successfully performing a wide range of songs in various languages. But he soon moved to his great passion: composing music. Henri composed music for artists like Ivan Rebroff, Betty Dorsey and Lulu. In 1984 Henri was awarded a gold disc for his composition 'Avanti la Vie', the Belgian entry for the Eurovision Song Festival. Henri Seroka has enjoyed success as a composer, producer and pop singer in Belgium, Poland and neighboring countries. He has composed and written songs for various features films, TV productions and for artists like Betty Dorsey, Jean-Pierre Cassel, Ivan Rebroff, Dorothee, Roland Kaiser, Lulu and Gunter Gabriel, He composed the music for the TV series "SMURFS". (more-than 1 million records sold!). He also wrote the Belgian tune for the European Theme Representation at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, which brought him his second gold disc within a year. Henri Seroka now has his own studio in Brussels where he continues to write and arrange all kinds of music. He is noted for his work as a film music composer for international movies films like "Alice", "Ataturk" and "The Art of Love", in USA and Europe.

Henri is currently touring with his high acclaimed "credo" show, which is already a huge success in Germany (berliner dom), Poland and Belgium.

Seeing Norda, immediately evoked the best in his artistic soul, and the works began to create a full CD with music to celebrate and honor the eightieth birthday of this brave wooden vessel.

Inspired by the sea, the sun, the wide horizons, but also by the hardship through which Norda went he created this unique CD that we want to present to you.

Henri Seroka is also not for the first time in Gdynia, as he forms a winning combination with Jacek Bromski in their successful range of films "U Pana Bogu ..." he was present at the different film festivals of Gdynia (the home port of Norda – maybe this CD is just a result of destiny, what do you think?)

By 10/7/2008 we will make a second press release and provide more details about the press conference itself. We can already tell you now that it will be the occasion to meet the artist Henri Seroka in person, to sail Norda and relax on the tones of the new cd "Norda".

Rsvp: as we will be sailing, the number of participants is limited: please reserve by sending an email to Joanna@norda.net.pl.

More information about Norda is at <http://www.norda.net.pl>.

More information about Henri Seroka is at <http://www.henriseroka.com>.

Further answers:

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