

Czesław Niemen - Człowiek Jam Niewdzięczny (A.K.A. Red Niemen) [1971]



01. *Człowiek Jam Niewdzięczny* 02. *Aerumnarum Plenus* 03. *Italiam, Italiam* 04. *Enigmatyczne Impresje* 05. *Nie Jesteś Moja* 06. *Wróć Jeszcze Dziś* 07. *Mój Pejzaż* 08. *Sprzedaj Mnie Wiatrowi* 09. *Zechcesz Mnie, Zechcesz* 10. *Chwila Ciszy* 11. *Muzyko Moja*
Musicians: Jacek Mikuła (Hammond-org), Tomasz Jaśkiewicz (g), Janusz Zieliński (bg), Czesław Bartkowski (dr), Zbyszek Namysłowski (as), Janusz Stefański (perc), Czesław Niemen (voc, fl), Krystyna Prońko, Zofia Borca, Elżbieta Linkowska, (back voc)

Czesław Niemen (the real name is Czesław Juliusz Wydrzycki) was born in Stare Wasiliscki (Old Vasilishki), a village in Byelorussia, Soviet Union, in 1939. In 1958 he has repatriated to Poland. His scenical name is a pseudonym taken after the name of the river Niemen. Debuted as a rock and soul singer in the early 1960's. He recorded "Dziwny jest ten świat" (Strange Is This World) as a major Polish protest song in 1967, and was an early pioneer of psychedelic music in communist Poland in the late 60's. He recorded three albums with the band Akwarele, as well as later works with Enigmatic, Grupa Niemen, and Aerolit. His first self-acclaimed progressive work was entitled "Enigmatic", and was released in 1969. The most notable song from it was "Bema pamięci żałobny - rapsod" (A Mournful Rhapsody, in memory of Jozef Bem, a Polish soldier who served as a Polish Army general in the Polish War of Independence (November Uprising)).

Like "Rhapsody", many of the other songs from "Enigmatic" were based Polish folk poetry. During his progressive period Niemen played keyboards extensively, including a Hammond, and later a mellotron and finally a Moog synthesizer.

In the early 70's Niemen recorded three albums for CBS International (Schaelplatten), including a 1974 release entitled Mourners' Rhapsody with Jan Hammer and Rick Laird of Mahavishnu Orchestra, electric violin and saxophonist Michal Urbaniak of Fusion, bassist the late Seldon

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Written by bluelover

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Powell of the Buddy Rich Band, and session pianist the late Don Grolnick. The album featured a fifteen minute version of "A Mournful Rhapsody". In the latter 70's Niemen's musical work tended more toward jazz/fusion, and even electronica. He released seven additional albums and a retrospective collection before he passed of cancer in 2004. ---Bob (ClemofNazareth), progarchives.com

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