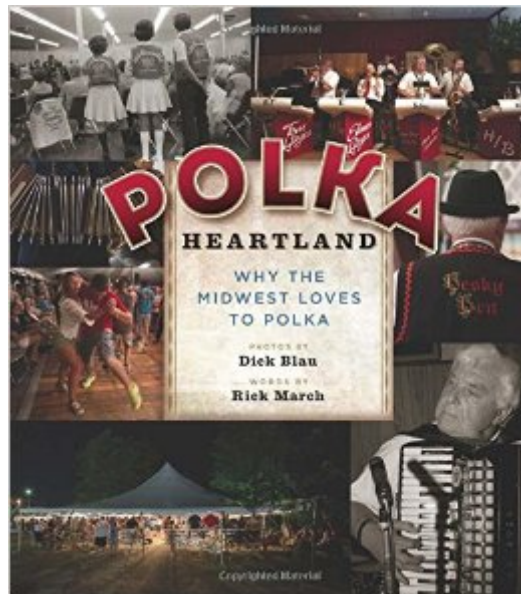


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# Polka Heartland: Why The Midwest Loves To Polka



## Synopsis

"Polka Heartland" captures the beat that pulses in the heart of Midwestern culture--the polka--and offers up the fascinating history of how "oompah-pah" came to be the sound of middle America. From the crowded dance tent at Pulaski Polka Days to an off-the-grid Mexican polka dance in small-town Wisconsin, "Polka Heartland" explores the people, places, and history behind the Midwest's favorite music. From polka's surprising origin story as a cutting-edge European fad to an exploration of the modern-day polka scene, author Rick March and photographer Dick Blau take readers on a joyful romp through this beloved, unique, and richly storied genre. "Polka Heartland" describes the artists, venues, instruments, and music-makers who have been pivotal to polka's popularity across the Midwest and offers six full-color photo galleries to immerse readers in today's vibrant polka scene.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received this book via giveaway in exchange for an honest review. I want to thank the peeps over at LibraryThing for my win, to Wisconsin Society Historical Press (that also sent me a catalog showcasing other amazing books by them) and to Rick March and Dick Blau for putting together such a wonderful book. From the moment I received this book in the mail to now I can't stop going over it. I absolutely love it. Next to books I have an obsession for music....all kinds of music so it was especially nice to embrace the world of Polka. I am not very familiar with Polka music but this book gives it all to me...and I have become quite fascinated. It is beautifully put together...every page

containing some interesting tidbit, a piece of history, gorgeous photos with such rich colors. From the Slovenian Americans, the Croatians, Frankie Yankovic, Pulaski Polka, Jolly Bashell, the entire past Polka history all the way to Polka's present with Tom Brusky, Mike Schneider, Molly Busta's Polka Party on cable t.v, it is a rich and beautifully cultured world. I was most fond of the section on Mexican Polka. Obviously being Mexican myself, anything within that culture being near and dear to my heart...the mention of Flaco Jimenez, someone I heard growing up with my grandparents..took me back to my childhood. Mexican music is filled with the signature Polka sound. And as mentioned, the photos...I can not say enough about the beautiful pictures within these pages. Rich in color..majestic...stunning...captures the heart of Polka music through the people that love it. There is even mention of Charles Dickins and how fond of Polka music he was. So fascinating. This is one of those books that you want to keep on a coffee table for display..you want to encourage guests to pick it up and take a look at it.

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