

*Co to znaczy “Funk”?:*

**An Introductory Examination of Funk Elements in Polish Popular Music**

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Originally developing out of African-American musical traditions, the funk genre has influenced contemporary Anglophone popular music by artists from diverse backgrounds. However, while Anglophone funk is currently under-researched in music scholarship, discussions of Polish popular music—particularly funk—are almost non-existent. By analysing two songs by the Polish popular artist Halina Frąckowiak and comparing their musical and lyrical elements with those of Anglophone funk, this paper examines the influence of the funk genre on a global scale, arguing for the existence of Polish funk and providing a foundation for future analyses of Polish popular music.

The songs “Wodo, zimna wodo” and “Idę dalej,” from Frąckowiak’s 1974 album *Idę*, employ timbres and rhythms associated with funk, particularly in the bass and percussion. However, their lyrical content differs significantly from Anglophone funk while conflicting timbral elements in the vocals and guitar allude to other genres. Examining these contrasting genre-markers reveals a formal process that blends teleological verse-prechorus-chorus form (as defined by Drew Nobile) with non-developmental processes favored in funk, creating what I deem a “cool-down” prechorus. I analyse the role of the organ timbre in these songs, demonstrating its potential as a predictor of funk-rock fusion throughout this album and in contemporary Anglophone popular music. Finally, I contextualize Frąckowiak’s music through comparisons with other contemporary artists, demonstrating both shared and distinct approaches to funk aesthetics. This study establishes a precedent for future research of Polish popular music and reinforces the validity of the funk genre as an interpretive framework for Frąckowiak’s music.