The concert of the Animals & Friends, Muzyczna Owczarnia, Szczawnica-Jaworki, 10th and 11th April 2016.

This place is magical, here we can all be together,
No matter who we are, no matter where we come from,
Here peace and goodwill fills the air, here we are closer to God,
While the music brings us together in joy.

Even the most abstractive dreams come true. When I read on the website of Muzyczna Owczarnia that the Animals & Friends would perform at Wietek Kołodziejski, I could not believe that. Theoretical and practical thoughts ran through my mind as quickly as lightning, and then I called Wietek to ask him for a ticket and to Grzegorz Kasprzyk to book accommodation at his Koliba (chalet).

Muzyczna Owczarnia.

The interest was so high that there were two concerts: on Sunday 10th and on Monday 11th. I arrived in Jaworki on Saturday to tune myself in this emotional atmosphere:) Sylwia, Wietk's wife, had everything ready. The musicians came on Sunday at 3 p.m. with Łukasz Gorczyca and Sebastian Kowol. Their presence was meaningful so there is a short mention about them.

Łukasz Gorczyca - basist, composer, author of numerous projects, known from cooperation with many famous domestic and foreign musicians. There are among others: Patsy Gamble, Jennifer Batten, Terry Man, Andy Egert, Wheatbread Johnson, Griff Hamlin, Barry Richman, Alvon Johnson, Keith Thompson, Rob Tognoni, Risto Toppola, Chuck Frazier, Kellie Rucker, Billy Hamilton, Chaz de Paolo, Alex Rossi, Grainne Duffy, Ian Sands Blues Band, Krissy Matthews, Dave Ellis Blues Band, Janet Robin, Leon Hendrix, Noel Coutts.

Tour manager, owner of a concert agency, co-author of a few festivals. This was Łukasz who contacted the Animals & Friends and invited them to Poland.

Sebastian Kowol - guitarist, co-establisher of PIN, pedagogue, composer, arranger, session musician, he cooperated with the following theatres: Teatr Rozrywki (Chorzów), Teatr Roma (Warszawa), Teatr Powszechny (Radom) and with the music band Chamal, he participated in recording the album of Golec uOrkiestra, he played in hundreds of concerts.
The role of Sebastian connected with the Animals & Friends was immense. First of all, he had Vox amplifier, which the band needed, and which is the design of the 70's of the 20th c. (in Poland there are maybe 20 of them). He also was a driver, technical assistant and a great manager throughout the stay of the Animals & Friends in Jaworki.

The musicians were interested in Owczarnia, they admired the posters and read about famous artists who performed there.

Then they went to Koliba to unpack their things, take some rest after the journey and prepare for the performance.

Mick Gallagher and John Steel.

Danny Handley and Roberto Ruiz.

In the meanwhile, sound technicians appeared, Mariusz Mróz and Piotr Lelito.

Here Piotr Lelito.
Sylwia asked the musicians about their menu preferences. They said they had no preferences although they could try something uncommon in England. When they were served with „Bogracz" a Hungarian style goulash soup in a kettle – they ate it with appetite. The artists were attended also by Bartosz, the son of Wietek and Sylwia, the daughter Klara, as well as Robert Mastalerz vel Sierściu, who has "4 Szmery" band (repertoire of ACDC) and comprehensive experience in working with musicians.

On Sunday evening, in the middle of forests and mountains, one of the most beautiful stars lit up the sky – the concert of the Animals & Friends began.
Wietek Kołodziejski, an artistic director at Muzyczna Owczarnia for seventeen years, welcomes the audience.

Artistic team:
- John Steel – drummer of the Animals, member of the band from the beginning (1963),
- Mick Gallagher – keyboard instruments, Hammond organs, with the Animals since 1965,
- Danny Handley - guitar, vocal. Known from the following concerts: with Spencer Davis, Bobby Elliott, Ric Lee (Ten Years After) and Scott Whitley,
- Roberto Ruiz – guitar, vocal. Despite my searches I failed in finding something more about him; there were google hits like mariachi or corridos:) But I have something different and even more valuable than a bibliographic note. There is his wife, Sophie Amanda Ruiz, on Facebook and there is a photo of Robert with their child.

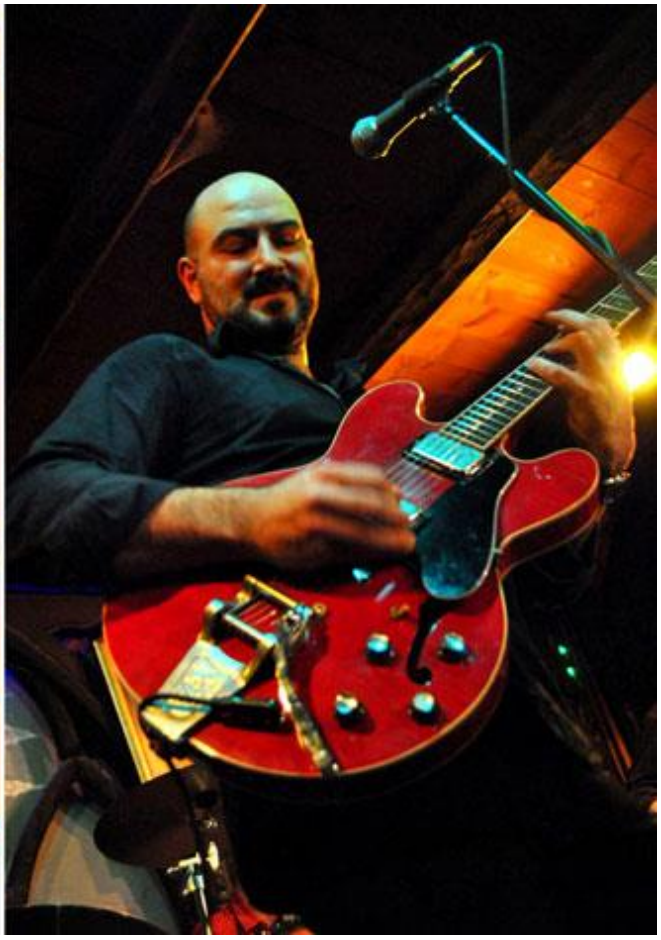
The Animals & Friends are in a great condition. At every concert they played 23 hits, belonging to the first ten positions of megahits.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0KlOmrqdyY

Mick Gallagher and Danny Handley.

The band rocked as hell. Charismatic Danny Handley led the concert fantastically, with vigour, expressively and with natural joyfulness. The other artists kept up the pace although it was not easy because they played for nearly two hours without any break.

John Steel and Roberto Ruiz.

For thousands of music lovers Muzyczna Owczarnia is a unique place; it is not only the place for concerts but also it is a place of creative work of various artists, painters, actors and dancers. They come here willingly and stay to present their musical creations and plays, and they conduct interesting workshops. Muzyczna Owczarnia fulfills the social mission through popularising top level music and enabling the talented youth to learn under the supervision of experienced educators.
http://www.muzycznaowczarnia.pl/



There were chronologically: Baby Let Me Take You Home, It's My Life, Bright, I'm Crying, She Said, Bring It On Home To Me, Don't Bring Me Down, I Belive, Autcast, Big Boss, Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood, Night Time, Spell, C.C, Halleluya, Road Runner, Inside, Roundt, Club A Go, Place, Boom Boom, Walket.

There were a few encores, and in the last one the House of the Rising Sun was played so beloved by all the fans. Who did not start his guitar lessons from this classic song?! At the first sound of this song the spontaneous audience almost climbed the tables. The applause was endless.
The performance of the Animals & Friends lit our Polish lazy spring with energising sun and Muzyczna Owczarnia gained even a higher rank.

Roberto Ruiz, Mick Gallagher, Danny Handley and Sebastian Kowol.

Monday was also fascinating, the band and me were sleeping in Koliba so we ate breakfast together and talked. And in the evening, the Animals & Friends again gave a tremendous performance.
https://www.facebook.com/animalsandfriends
http://www.rockartistmanagement.co.uk/#!animals-and-friends/ci18

Danny Handley.

When they finished the concert and took a gasp, everyone wanted to shake hands with them, talk for a while and congratulate on this fantastic show.
Everybody could get autographs and take photos with the artists. They said that they felt at Wietek's like at home.

FOR RENATA
Muzyczna Owczarnia
10-11 KWIETNIA 2016r. /NIEDZIELA, PONIEDZIAŁEK/
THE ANIMALS
& FRIENDS
LEGENDARNA GRUPA NA NASZEJ SCENIE !!!!!!!

ALLELUJA PIEKINY!!

Koliba. They left on Tuesday midday.

Musicians write their dedications. This board will decorate the entrance to the boarding house.

Mick Gallagher, John Steel, Danny Handley, Sebastian Kowol and Roberto Ruiz.

John Steel and Mick Gallagher.

Sebastian Kowol took them to Katowice Airport, at 6 p.m. they had a plane to England and from Monday they were to set on their great tour around Sweden. Mick is most excited about this tour because after 51 years he will re-perform in the place where he gave his first concert with the Animals.

When the bus disappeared round the corner, Kudłaty SoundSystem began its performance. They made us feel the flow: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SWQ7QAo588

Could not they play while the guests were leaving? Why are they so modest?

My friend Adam found a note in the Internet about the basist from the Animals & Friends which will tell us something more about this musician.
Roberto Ruiz wrote: "I'm a session musician originally from New York and I have loads of experience in many aspects of bass playing. From small jazz combos to reading for musicals, from function work to orignal singer/songwriter gigs, I play upright and electric bass. I also have extensive experience recording original material as well. In the UK I've worked with several artists gigging and recording: Donny Osmond, The Mend, Janet Devlin, Charlotte O'Connor, Philippa Hanna, and Roo Walker just to name a few. Just look for the Youtube videos. Thanks for reading!".

Warm and sunny greetings to all the fans of the Animals & Friends and I wish the band full concert halls of fans and long years of joyful playing.

Renata Bednarz, Poland.
www.renatabednarz.pl