

MEC YEK BALKAN MOTOWN - GYPSY HIP!



Straightforward tradition and hot jazz, performed by a mixed ensemble of Roma and Gadzje, with a truly fresh take on Romani music. Often up-tempo, yet without losing the emotion that lies at the heart of it all. Mec Yek is – against all expectations – a gypsy band without a violin, but with wind instruments, and whatever they do, they do it with style, daring and elegance.

ABOUT US

Sometime midway through the 1990s, **Piet Maris** (frontman with the acclaimed Euro roots outfit Jaune Toujours) began to make contact with gypsy musicians and, through their guidance and contacts, to travel regularly to a Roma community in Slovakia. Through the latter, the ever curious musician learned their gypsy style of playing. Afterwards, this repertoire was thoroughly reinterpreted by the musicians of Jaune Toujours, who, in their usual fashion, began pushing the music beyond the boundaries of tradition by adding their own musical flavours to the sound. At first, the more traditionally-minded gypsies in the band's audience frowned in astonishment at these changes but the sound began to catch on with the younger Roma. The latter's stamp of approval was, ultimately, given authority when two young Roma singers - **Katia and Milka Pohlodkova** - joined the band on stage and never left... The gypsy incarnation that has developed from Jaune Toujours is called **Mec Yek!**



Piet Maris: “When I look back, I’m pretty impressed with the itinerary of more than 20 years we embarked on together with Katia and Milka. From that first moment on stage, when we had just fallen into each other’s cultures, as a manner of speaking, we were still discovering our common identity and the way we deal with music. The way we look at things, how we’re positioned in our lives, the differences but at the same time the similarities between the cities we live in... All those years at least we have worked together to present a valuable, authentic alternative for the clichés that still surround the Roma, the gypsies.”

As you’d expect from Mec Yek’s origins, **their music** contains quite some musical surprises. After two EPs, they released their first full-length album **Antikrisis**, followed by the album **SuperDiverCity**. Their most recent recordings date from 2021 and are titled **Taisa**, which means ‘tomorrow’ - the Roma ‘mañana’, you could say. For the repertoire on that album, Katia and Milka went back to their youth in **Kosice, Slovakia**, to a demo of songs they made with their brothers. But there are also special arrangements of traditional Roma songs. Singing is in **Romanes**, but sometimes also in **Russian** and there is even a little bit of **Dutch**. With a wide range of styles, from **tarantella** to **ska** to **island blues**. But against all odds : **Mec Yek is a gypsy band without a violin.**

INFORMATION

THE BAND :

Milka Pohlodkova - Vocals
Katia Pohlodkova - Vocals
Piet Maris - Accordion & Vocals
Théophane Raballand - Drums & Percussion
Mathieu Verkaeren - Upright Bass
Mattias Laga - Sax soprano & Clarinets
Bart Maris - Trumpet & Tuba

DISCOGRAPHY :

- 2021 Taisa (album)
- 2015 SuperDiverCity (album)
- 2010 Re:Plugged (Remix album)
- 2008 Antikrisis (album)
- 2002 Caravan 2002 (EP)
- 1999 Caravan 2000 (EP)

SITES EN SOCIALS:



[Linktree Mec Yek](#)



[Choux.net](#)
[Choux.net/MecYek](#)



[Instagram Mec Yek](#)



[Bandcamp Mec Yek](#)



[Facebook Mec Yek](#)



[Apple Music Mek Yek](#)



[Youtube Mec Yek](#)

CONTACT :



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LINKS

AUDIO - VIDEO - LIVE

LINKS AUDIO:

- [Soske Me Te Tshorel Geilom](#) (album Taisa)
- [Shukar Romani](#) (album Taisa)
- [Duj Duj](#) (album SuperDiverCity)
- [Soske Dzjava](#) (album SuperDiverCity)
- [Shargo Tshizjma](#) (album Antikrisis)

MUSIC VIDEOS

- [Sako Ratshi](#) (album Taisa)
- [Pale Tsha Kalo](#) (album SuperDiverCity)

LIVE VIDEO :

- [Sidzjar Mamo](#) (album Taisa - Digital Choux-Fest)
- [Shun tu more](#) (album SuperDiverCity - Show de Bxl)
- [Loli Paraditshka](#) (album Antikrisis - Balkan Trafik)



HIGHLIGHTS



he band has an excellent reputation for their live performances and always live up to it on stage, as was amply demonstrated at concerts at **Plazey Festival** and **Les Escales Estivales** (Belgium 2026), **Luifelconcerten** (Belgium 2025), **Casa del Mundo** (Belgium 2024), **Goûts de Gand**, **Bendana and Propulse Festival** (Belgium 2023), **Colora Festival**, **Quartiers d'O** (TAZ), **Zilleghem Folk** and **Jam'in Jette Festival** (Belgium 2022), **Mabatato Festival**, **Festival d'Art de Huy** (Belgium 2021), **Balkan Trafik**, **Choux-Fest VK Brussels** (Belgium 2021), **The Canopy Sessions** (Belgium 2020) **PAS Festival** (The Netherlands 2017) **Zomer Van Antwerpen**, **Copacabana Festival** (Belgium 2017) **Glatt und Verkehrt Festival** (Austria 2016), to name just a few...

PRESS QUOTES



Theophane Raballand

FINANCIAL TIMES (★★★★) : "The dominant Gypsy jazz offers endless twists."

SONGLINES (★★★★) : "A wide musical catchment that reflects the group's diverse backgrounds as well as the itinerant heritage of the Roma people."

ROOTSTIME (★★★★) : "Virtuosity and emotion fit together wonderfully and the kind of Roma music Mec Yek makes today, without giving up any of its authenticity, has effortlessly made the step to modernity."

LUST FOR LIFE MAGAZINE (★★★★) : "Stirring music that connects Eastern and Western Europe in an original way."

RnR (★★★) : "Taisa revels in its jauntiness, whilst the band are adept at providing restless rhythms amidst a joyful approach that would excite any audience ."

TECHNICAL RIDER

vzw **CHOUX DE BRUXELLES** asbl
Technical Info Mec Yek

full range p.a. system : 0 - 250 persons 2 x 2 kW
 225 - 500 persons 2 x 4 kW
 500 - 1000 persons 2 x 8 kW
 > 1000 persons contact band

console : - min. 24 track
 - 4-bands parametric eq.
 - 3 post fader aux sends
 - 3 stereo fx returns
 - phantom power (48 volt)

outboard: - 2 x 31-bands graphic eq.
 - 10 x compressor limiter
 - 2 x noise gate
 - 2 x reverb type Lexicon, TC Electronic M series
 - 1 x delay with tap type TC d2, 2290

monitor: - 24-5 Monitor mixing table, 4-bands parametric eq.
 - 31-bands graphic eq. on all outputs
 - min . 6 x 15" floormonitors, pref. on 6 sends
 ! if no separate monitor console is available, the front console should
 have min. 6 prefader aux sends & 31 bands graphic eq. on all outputs !

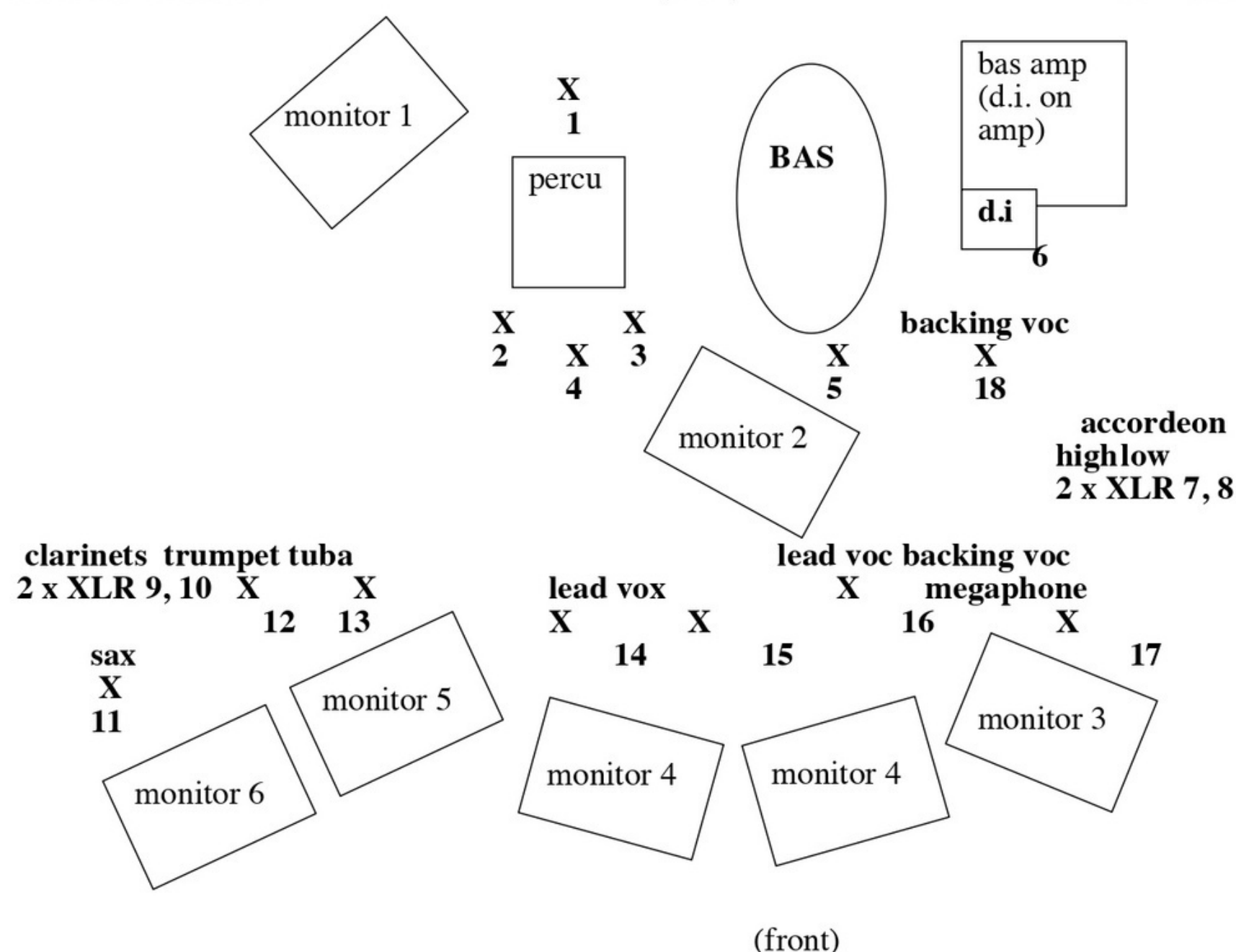
remarks: - intercom FOH - stage is necessary
 - the FOH mixing table should not be placed:
 . on or under a balcony
 . left / right of the central axe of the stage
 - all mentioned items may be replaced by other, on the condition that the
 quality is the same or comparable
 - if you have questions, please contact the band
 - if the p.a. is rented, the renting company has to be informed of the technical
 demands formulated in these sheets
 - these sheets are part of the contract

vzw CHOUX DE BRUXELLES asbl			
Technical Info Mec Yek			
	INSTR.	MIC/DI	
1	cajon	SM 91	
2	bells	SM 57	
3	shekere	SM 57	
4	OH	CK 93 / Neu 184 / C 451	
5	bells	SM 57	
6	contrabas	DI	compressor 1
7	accordeon L (Low)	XLR (mic < band)	
8	accordeon R (High)	XLR (mic < band)	
9	clarinet	XLR (element < band)	compressor 2
10	bass clarinet	XLR (element < band)	compressor 3
11	sax soprano	MD 421 / SM 57	compressor 4
12	trumpet	MD 421 / SM 58	compressor 5
13	tuba	MD 421 / SM 58	compressor 6
14	lead voc	SM 58	compressor 7
15	lead voc	SM 58	compressor 8
16	lead voc (voc acc.)	SM 57A	compressor 9
17	backing voc (megapho	XLR (mic < band)	
18	backing voc (bass)	SM 58	compressor 10
MONITORS: min. 6 x 15" floormonitors, pref. on 6 sends			
REMARK			
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vzw Choux de Bruxelles asbl			
G.Schildknechtstr. 33/3, 1020 Brussels, tel +32 (0)2 538 94 55			
BTW BE 466.505.167 TVA			
www.choux.net - info@choux.net			

Mec Yek STAGE

(back)

X = stand, 1-18 = mic / line



contact mec yek
choux de bruxelles tel 02/538 94 55
piet maris (acco & vox) mob 0478/82 57 63