

## Jaune Toujours: Routes – review

(Choux des Bruxelles/Discovery)

★★★★☆

Here's a band to break down Euro stereotypes. They mix ska with chanson and jazzy balladry, sing about political failure and race, and come from Belgium. This is the first studio album from [Jaune Toujours](#) in four years, and it's an entertaining set that succeeds largely because of their infectious energy and enthusiasm. The band have no guitars but instead feature a lead singer who plays accordion and is backed by bass, drums and a brass contingent. There are also appearances by the [Gangbé Brass Band](#) from Benin, a krar player from Eritrea and the two Roma singers. The lyrics switch between French and English, and the best songs are the brassy political disillusion of All Eyes and Azadi, based on lyrics by an Iranian activist who died in prison. Elsewhere, with Hop On, they ease into a less distinctive, rumbling singalong, but they are both thoughtful and fun.