

## **MEC YEK**

### **Super Diver City**

*Choux de Bruxelles CHOU1502*

**[choux.net/mecyek](http://choux.net/mecyek)**

Mec Yek is Belgian band Jaune Toujours plus a pair of Roma sisters who share the vocals with group leader Piet Maris. Much of the material is drawn from the Roma tradition, all souped-up with some quite superb playing and plenty of go-faster stripes without losing the emotion at the heart of it all. Remarkably free of clichés, it's the type of sound to draw in an audience simply by its energy and passion.

The sisters, Katharina and Emilia Pohlodkova, do a fiery job in front of the five-piece who are constantly letting off musical fireworks behind them. And although they look to the past for many of the songs, this outing is about everything but nostalgia. Yet it also stands as a political statement (Diver City—diversity) about Europe in the 21st century, when the borders are down and people travel and settle everywhere (except Britain, of course, if the Tories and Ukip have their way). So it's a celebration of what we've become, a beautifully mongrel continent where we can cross cultures, which this manages in a blazing way. Add in a couple of originals by the sisters and an Amy Winehouse cover and there's something with very broad appeal.

**Chris Nickson**