

SONGLINES

DISCOVER A WORLD OF MUSIC



**TOP
OF THE
WORLD**
TRACK 8

Mec Yek **Super Diver City**

Choux de Bruxelles (44 mins)



Gypsy fusion with its rough edges intact



It has to be said that perky fusion bands are in plentiful supply these days. Often they kick up a storm live, but then that impact gets lost in the studio. However, with this Balkan/Euro roots outfit there's a pleasing spaciousness and looseness to the production and playing that translates well. The vocals of Roma sisters Katia and Milka Pohlodkova are delivered with a sensuous swagger that make it easy to imagine you're watching them at WOMAD, as they make the audience forget about their smartphones for an hour or so.

It is also great to hear a production that favours the vocals, brass and accordion rather than the drums and percussion: their presence is felt but we are not bludgeoned into submission by them.

So, all in all, this collection of traditional Roma songs, a couple of self-penned numbers and a not remotely incongruous cover of Amy Winehouse's 'Back to Black' is definitely worth investing in. There's not much new sonic territory explored on *Super Diver City*, but what they do, they do with style, grit and grace.

HOWARD MALE

TRACK TO TRY *Kali Som*