

MEC YEK



Taisa

(CHOUX DE BRUXELLES) www.mecyek.be



Outside the confines of certain festivals British audiences rarely seem to embrace bands that meld global beats. There have been notable exceptions such as Transglobal Underground, Les Negresses Vertes and the ongoing musical explorations of Jah Wobble and Damon Albarn, but the more Eurocentric bands rarely cut through.

Brussels collective Jaune Toujours, led by accordionist Piet Maris, are a prime example of this with their mix of music genres, rhythms, languages, and cultures ever popular on mainland Europe over the last twenty years, though without that success crossing the Channel. During this same period Maris has also collaborated with Gypsy musicians from Slovakia leading to the core quartet of Jaune Toujours, fronted by singing sisters Katia and Milka Pohlodkova, forming another multi-genre band, Mec Yek.

It's the singing sisters who grab the attention with their updated versions of traditional Roma songs, whilst the band provide backing in a range of styles, from tarantella to ska, most notably on the slightly ribald 'Amari San Amari' and the exuberant ode to beauty, 'Shukar Romani'.

Taisa (meaning 'tomorrow') revels in its jauntiness, other than 'Sako Ratshi' with its regretful perpetrator, whilst the band are adept at providing restless rhythms amidst a joyful approach that would excite any audience.

Simon Rowland