

The Beat Magazine

Almost by definition, Gypsy music is wilder and more passionate than most other genres. That's a difficult criterion to fulfill in the post-punk world, but Hungary's Besh o droM finds countless ways to dazzle on Can't Make Me (Asphalt Tango). Befitting a band that plays with so much soul, they wield a precision horn and reed section on the title song (AKA "Nekemtenemmutogatol Oro") that paves the way for highcharged sax, clarinet and cymbalon solos. "Csango Menyhart" illustrates how Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhart might have sounded on speed. "Engem Anyam Megatkozott" (My Mother Cursed Me) introduces an apparent hobbit shoehorned into a reed whirlwind to chirp out one of the few vocals on this disc. Other cuts stir in scratching, punk attitude, and other obvious nods to modernity, but the traditional underpinnings hold center stage- upped a few notches of intensity, of course.

Bob Tarte 04.01.03