

## **Penguin Eggs**

### **Can't Make Me!**

Besh o droM is a Gipsy idiom for "go your own way!" and that is definitely what this Hungarian group does. If the album title doesn't make obvious their goal of resistance to conformity, their music drives the point home: a collision of Eastern European and Middle Eastern traditions, laced with generous influences from modern dance and jazz. However, unlike many of their world beat contemporaries whose slavish adherence to The Beat usually strips the music of its local character, Besh o droM achieve a delicate balance, the end result equally supportive of dance mayhem in person or in the head. And even when the beat is strong they prove unpredictable; one of their most frantic pieces, Csango Menyhart, eschews percussion altogether. Still, when they haul out the rapping and the scratching (Csujogato) the fit is wonderful. Elsewhere, we are treated to lots of brass, guitar, cimbalom, percussion, and bass. With seven members, there is plenty of room to play and Besh o droM occupy every inch. Can't Make Me! is a real treat.

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