

## **fROOTS**

### **"Go your own way!"**

Besh O Drom is, apparently, Rom for "Go your own way!" although looking at the photo of this seven-piece Hungarian band I get the feeling that they are all too pale to be Roma. Not that I'm about to start playing the skin game - white men proved they can play the blues (occasionally) and Besh O Drom's sound may have roots in East European Gypsy music, but is too eclectic to be considered as traditional. They claim to draw on a huge reservoir of Balkan influences, while adding guitar, saxophone, percussion, DJ scratching. etc. Not too different in spirit from London's Oi-Va-Voi then. Sonically, well they sure can play and Neyem, Neyem has a lovely Arabic/ Radio Tarifa feel to it. Their attempts at fusion (think Manu Chao / Macaco) are less successful - technique and speed not covering for lack of songwriting skills. Can't Make Me! possesses promise, but Besh O Drom need to relax, go more for feeling and stop trying to force the fusion.

Garth Cartwright 03.05.03