

WORLD

ErsatzMusika

Songs Unrecantable
ASPHALT TANGO



Whatever its title means, this is an oddly powerful melange of nostalgia and futurology. Just as citizens in ex-Soviet states yearn for the comforting stability of communism, so do those musicians whose revolt against it propelled them to exile in Berlin, which is where this band's heart seems to be. The atmosphere is so smoky you can smell it; the cod-English lyrics come and go, but the melancholic sound of singer-composer-keyboardist Irina Doubrovskaya is compelling. **Michael Church**