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RECOMMENDATIONS: WORLD MUSIC



TOM JACKSON RECOMMENDS

WORLD MUSIC

Kal

Kal

Asphalt Tango

This is the Sound of the Suburbs. The Belgrade suburbs, to be precise, and the international debut of Serbian gypsy seven-piece Kal. It's big Balkan rock'n'roma, but listen hard and you'll see there's relatively little trickery going here, just gypsy instruments playing traditional melodies with a heavy dose of bouncing bass and manic energy. Despite the powerpunch production of Jamiroquai's chart-savvy mixer Mike Nielsen, the recording still has plenty of rough edged life: Rambo Amadeus guests as a wry roma rapper on Komedija while the epic Boro Boro sees the band pull out an almost orchestral backing to a fabulous female vocal that spars with Shaban Shaban's hypnotic clarinet. Back home this sound is unfashionably rootsy but for the world music market it hits the spot, a modern gypsy sound put together by the new generation of Roma, perfect for a post-rauc, post-Manu Chao, post-flipping-modern, post-pub shindig.

Sara Tavares

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