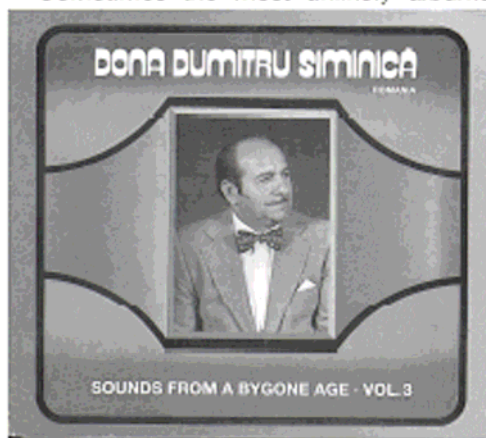


DONA DUMITRU SIMINICA
"Sounds From A Bygone Age. Vol 3"
Asphalt-Tango CD-ATR1106
Sometimes the most unlikely albums



arrive. Here is an example; a middle-aged Romanian gypsy recorded in the early 1960s sings pop songs in his falsetto voice in Romany and in Romanian to accordion, cymbalon and double bass. Doesn't sound as though it's going to be interesting, does it? Wrong! This is an album that demands full attention from the first few notes as it captivates and enthrals. Dona's music has a hypnotic effect whether it's his pleading, lonesome singing or his otherworldly fiddle playing.

Somehow these musicians who inhabited the pavement cafes of Bucharest under the most controlled and repressive of all the Eastern European regimes managed to get invited into the recording studios and have small quantities of their music available for local release. The German company that researched these obscure treasures have performed a really worthwhile task. (VS) (www.asphalt-tango.de)