



Dona Dimitru Siminica Sounds From a Bygone Age Vol. 3 (Asphalt Tango)

One good thing about Communist Rumania: the state-owned record label was not adverse to releasing spine-chilling performances by the country's Gypsies.

Another CD reissue of Rumanian Gypsy songs from the '60s features Dona Dimitru Siminica, a volcanic presence whose vocals soared to the highest registers of the male range—an Eastern European counterpoint to the soulful falsettos of Motown. Siminica's mournful passion was supported by a sensitive ensemble, an urban orchestra of melancholic accordions and a tinkling cymbalom, anchored by string bass. One imagines, however, that the ecstatic heights of Siminica's voice required no support from any musician. He could stop an audience dead just by opening his mouth to sing.

—David Lührssen

