Warsaw Village Band - Nord (2012)

01 – Hey You, Yokel's Son 02 – Musicians are a-Playin 03 – My Fate 04 – Kujawiak the Fiend 05 – Whoa, Bullocks, Whoa 06 – You Sure Knew What's What, Lass 07 – Hemp Lullaby 08 – Ingunn 09 – Emigrant Polka 10 – War's Coming 11 – Jewesse Polka 12 – Farmer's Wives 13 – Stepp This and That Maja Kleszcz - cello and vocals Magdalena Sobczak - cimbalom and vocals Sylwia Świątkowska - violin, suka, vocals Wojciech Krzak - violin, hurdy gurdy, jaw harp Piotr Gliński - bęben (drum) Maciej Szajkowski - frame drum

There may have been a change of personnel, but Warsaw Village Band are still one of the most adventurous, exciting groups in Europe. Matching the thrilling, harsh-edged vocals of their two female singers Magdalena Sobczak-Kotnarowska and Sylwia Swiatkowska against slinky bass riffs, percussion and wild violin work (with a dash of dulcimer, trumpet or traditional Płock fiddle added in), they create an edgy reworking of folk styles that can switch between furious dance pieces and passages of quirky, quietly thrilling a cappella vocals. They have been travelling in Scandanavia and North America, and the best songs are collaborations. The opening track, which apparently translates as Hey You, Yokel's Son, is a wailing, stomping workout in which they are joined by the bagpipes and hurdy-gurdy of the Swedish band Hedningarna, while on War's Coming they are helped by singer Sandy Scofield, for what sounds like a wild exercise in folk-trance music, with dub effects added in. Play it loud. --- Robin Denselow, guardian.co.uk

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