

JAUNE TOUJOURS

Routes Choux de Bruxelles LC-15565



This is the Belgian roots/folk/punk/ska/jazz/Balkan seven-piece's first original studio recording since 2009's *Kolectiv* and finds them sounding more focused than ever. I have to own-up to being a sucker for the particular noise JT make:

rhythms that throb, horns that kick, Piet Maris's accordion and declamatory vocals to the fore and not a guitar to be heard. They're serial collaborators and *Routes* features vari-

ous guests on various tracks, including the singing Slovakian sisters from side project *Mec Yek*, Benin's ever wonderful *Gangbe Brass Band* and on the excellent *Si J'étais Toi* Ethiopian *krar* player *Samson Okbo*. Business as usual then, both in the rock solid basic sound (I particularly like the rhythmic punch of their brass section) and their willingness to branch out and collaborate, but this time round there are far more songs in English than before. This is so often a stumbling block for bands who sing in other tongues, but mostly not this time, give or take the odd awkward phrase (I think it helps a lot that the multi-lingual Maris is an English speaker). Quite possibly their best yet.

www.choux.net

Jamie Renton

Jaune Toujours



Photo: [unreadable]