

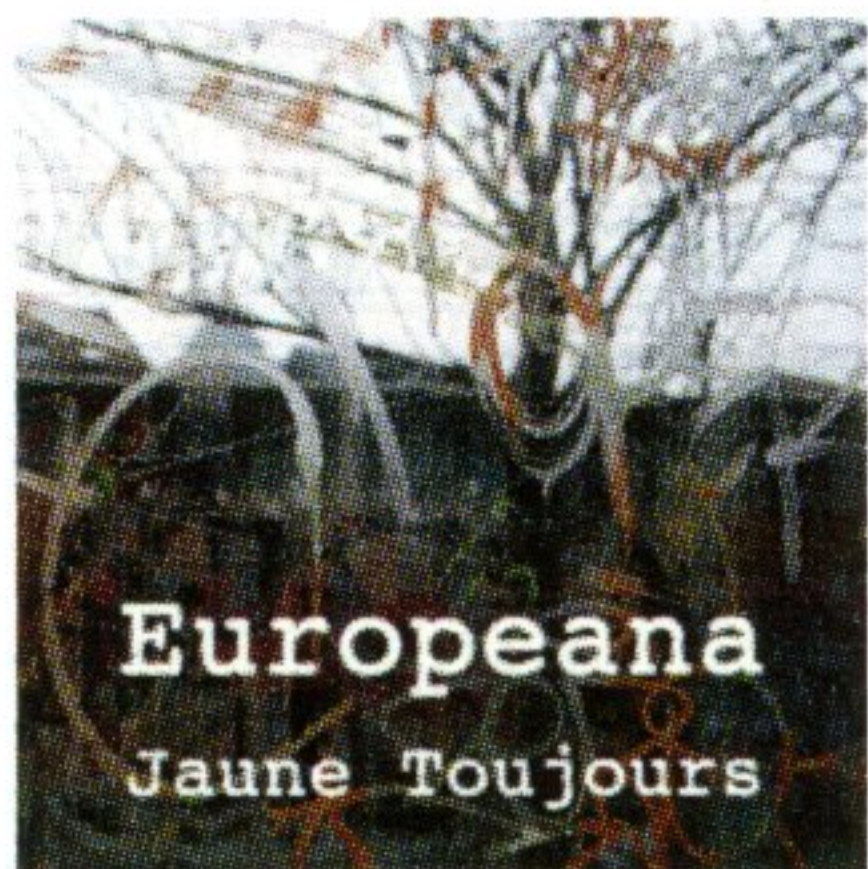
# SONGLINES

## Jaune Toujours Europeana

Choux de Bruxelles (45 mins)



*An unambiguous comment on multicultural Europe*



Jaune Toujours are the rambunctious and eclectic Belgian sextet led by singer and accordionist Piet

Maris. This is their first album since 2013's *Routes*, and its name stakes its claim as an alternative to Americana – roots music from a metropolitan, multicultural Europe with strong musical links to Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and encompassing jazz, rock, punk, ska, Latin, dub and reggae.

*Europeana* was recorded live at Club Magazin 4 in Brussels, and at the band's own rehearsal room at Studio Choux de Bruxelles. As a result, it is raucous and brassy, pumped with energy and variety, a play-it-loud party album – albeit probably more squat party than dinner party – that distils all manner of influences into its grooves.

Amid the exuberant brass and percussion that dominates the sound, there's a strong socio-political dimension; Maris and the band draw on the same internationalist libertarianism as Manu Chao, with the songs including the unambiguous 'Refugees Welcome', as well as 'Radio Blues', a lament for the malaise of bad news and worse media, and 'Cinema Politika', blowing a brass riff through an exhausted political system. Messages abound, but so does the festive, funky live squat party feel that typifies *Europeana*.

TIM CUMMING

**TRACK TO TRY** *Cinema Politika*

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