

Mp3 Limpopo - Give Us A Break



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Russian folk music 16 MP3 Songs WORLD: Eastern European, FOLK: Modern Folk Details: REVIEW

Dear Igor, Many thanks for you two sample CDs, which arrived today. I think we will include either one or both of them in our CD Buying Guide in the "Other items of interest" section. How big a quantity must we order in order to qualify for a better discount? Now allow me a few impressions. I like "Give Us a Break" better than "Traffic Jam". I appreciate the wit and (musical) humor--singing harmonies in the "wrong" keys, etc--, even while you preserve the folk tunes in their characteristic and recognizable likeness. I also see elements of "Weird Al" Yankovich and... Frank Zappa! You see, being a Russian-American of the "second" wave, I grew up in Southern California (Glendale) during the 1960s and 1970s, when all that musical craziness was starting to happen; I know who both Frank Zappa and John Cage are. But in the second CD I already see many more elements of Western tastes and styles. You have to understand that, although I grew up in America, something deeply Russian has been planted in my soul and spirit. I understood this when I heard Dmitry Pokrovsky for the first time in Russia, where I was gathering materials for my book "Choral Performance in Pre-Revolutionary Russia." (Subsequently, I developed a certain degree of closeness with Dmitry and his ensemble. Shortly before his untimely death, I sat with him here in Connecticut and discussed possible plans for publishing some of his folklore transcriptions.) I grew to be a great admirer of Pokrovsky, Slava Shchurov, the Russian Druzhina Ensemble, etc., and my dream was always that, freed from the Socialist yoke, Russian folk music would give rise to a "popular" music, but one that would remain somehow truly Russian--maintaining some of that "purity," "innocence", and "beauty" that have always been present in the Russian character, and which, sadly, have been almost totally lost in "decadent" Western music--both classical and popular. In the West, broadly speaking, we are now dealing largely with the art of Nihilism, which has no life or future in it. Please

forgive my "filosofstvovanie"! You are obviously very gifted and talented musicians. My earnest wish for you is to succeed, but can you do it by emphasizing the positive and beautiful and spirited that is in Russian national art, "wowing" unsuspecting Western ears? Can you resist at all costs the temptation to subvert and distort (dare I say desecrate) Russian art just because the West says "now you can" and nods its head in cynical approval. Vot! Vyskazalsia! Maybe you will read this, laugh at me and will never care to speak to me again (just sell me CDs). Or maybe we will be able to continue this conversation. Wishing you all the best artistic and musical successes, Iskrenne Vash, Vlad

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