

# Mp3 West Philadelphia Orchestra - Wpo



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Groovy, joyous, and anarchic original music inspired particularly by Eastern European folk music, as well as fresh takes on traditional music from Macedonia, Romania, and the klezmer tradition. 15 MP3 Songs

WORLD: Balkan, WORLD: Klezmer Details: The West Philadelphia Orchestra (WPO) is 14 of Philadelphia's best and most daring musicians from all different backgrounds (jazz, classical, experimental, rock, indie), playing original and traditional, most of which is or is inspired by Balkan, 'Gypsy,' and klezmer music. 'Overflowing joy' is an apt adjective for the WPO experience. In September of 2006, bandleader Gregg Mervine got together 7 musicians on his West Philly porch and got them jamming on traditional Eastern European melodies. Through word of mouth, news of the group's formation spread and the right folks with the right talents became regulars at the weekly jam/potluck on the porch. WPO quickly evolved into a obstreperous village band in step with West Philly's DIY culture (i.e. its Co-Ops, underground music networks, and proactive anarchist legacy), but whose playing can just as easily wring tears and sorrow from the soul as it can spark cathartic outpourings of joyful ecstasy. WPO is an ensemble for both children and adults, one that sounds fantastic in darkness and sunshine, and which represents inspiring standards of excellence - which, like an orchestra, can express the entire gamut of human experience. Members of the band come from all different traditions and walks of life. There's jazz saxophonist/poet Elliot Levin, with Odean Pope, Cecil Taylor, New Ghost, and Melvin and the Bluenotes. There's violinist Katt Hernandez, who plays the Macedonian fiddle style well, has toured with Vashti Bunyan, yet is probably best known for her experimental, boundary-breaking violin/voice improvisations. Drummer Gregg Mervine is equally at home in bebop, reggae/dancehall (Ari Up, King Django), punk (Stinking Lizavetta, Cheese on Bread), klezmer (Klez Dispensers, etc.), etc. and on numerous instruments which found themselves on WPO (drumset, tapan, pandeiro, tamborim, doumbek).

Bassist and vocalist Jack Ohly plays original music under his own name, which utilizes the upright bass in fascinating ways, and also plays music from Northeastern Brazil, where he lived for several years. And then there's Janos Perge, a violinist from Hungary who came to Philadelphia to research neuroscience at UPenn and somehow found himself playing Hungarian and Balkan folk music, who is also a fine singer and arranger. Other players include trombonists Larry Toft and Brendan Cooney (also banjo), Kimbal Brown, Patrick Hughes, Dawn Webster, and Adam Hershberger on trumpets, Jacob Mitas on viola, Shinjoo Cho on accordion, and Steve Duffy is the sousaphonist. WPO has played at the Philadelphia's Kimmel Center, NY's Goldenfest, the Rotunda, the Khyber, North Star Bar, World Cafe, Mehanata, Philly house parties, punk rock basements, and backyards, for several fundraisers, and they have regular gigs Philly clubs Fiume and Tritone. Their live shows are frenetic, high-energy, and usually all-night. We believe that music is a well-spring of joy and human understanding that should play an integral role in a community, fulfilling its essential purpose of stirring and renewing communal roots and feeding the human spirit. People who are interested in Goran Bregovi The Klezmatics Taraf de Hadouks should consider this download.

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