

Muzikifan

LES TRIABOLIQUES RIVERMUDTWILIGHT (World Village 468088)



I don't review much white music, not that I am a racist, I am just niggardly with my auditory space and don't like to explore beyond the types of music I enjoy: African, and music of the African diaspora, even though I occasionally listen to other types of music -- jazz, pop and rock -- that I don't need to write about here. (I put niggardly in that last sentence because one of my students insisted it is a racist word: amazing how ill-informed the younger generation is! Comes from all that mind-numbing rap music they listen to!) I should appreciate Celtic music as it is in my genetic code, but I don't. However I put on this new release by Les

Triaboliques and really enjoyed it. It reminded me of Jerry Garcia's side project Old and In the Way, then Fairport Convention and the unplugged early Led Zep stuff like "Black Dog." I imagine these guys, who must be in their sixties, have similar musical backgrounds to mine. John Renbourn, Bert Jansch, & the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band played my college in London in 1968; everyone was listening to American blues, as reflected in the folk and pop music of the 60s. Ben Mandelson and Lu Edmonds, two of the triaboliques, or "Les Diaboliques," were part of Three Mustafas, a brilliant band I was fortunate to see in concert. They were like the Bonzo Dog of world music, and very entertaining. And when you think of clowns turning to legit theatre late in their careers, like Bill Irwin, or Robin Williams and Steve Martin doing "Waiting for Godot," you understand the longing to show what they can do with a straight face that has driven the Mustafas to doff the fezes and kick out the jams. The mandolin playing of Ben Mandelson is a highlight as he embroiders the melodies. They cover "Don't let me be misunderstood," which was a hit for the Animals, and "Jack O'Diamonds," an old country & western ballad. The other tunes are original compositions but show their feeling for music of other lands. The third member is Justin Adams whose work I am not familiar with, though I believe he has gigged with Robert Plant, but I won't hold it against him. They are all excellent string players and this is a rich and varied album.

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