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LES TRIABOLIQUES
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Perhaps the biggest surprise about Les Triaboliques is that the group hasn't happened before – maybe they've just been too busy. They're three merchants of various plucked instruments and some vocals, with Ben Mandelson and Lu Edmonds, who already play together in Billy Bragg's band, (Edmonds is also active in the Mekons and the new incarnation of John Lydon's PiL), while Justin Adams has his own career, as well as playing guitar in Robert Plant's group. This is all very low-key, an album that mumbles rather than roars, of slowly shifting moods, and instruments from the four corners of the earth coming together in unusual, but compatible, combinations. Anyone expecting flashy technique will have to listen hard; this is more three friends exploring sound, texture and songs, including a surprising version of The Animals' classic "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," which grows out of a traditional hora, or the old blues "Jack O' Diamonds." The joy is in simply letting this play, its pleasures unfolding over several listenings. Don't try and put it a box, since it won't fit – neatly or otherwise. These are all people who've played global music, who love it and understand it, and are pooling their experience for pleasure, theirs and yours. — CN