

# SONGLINES

March 2009

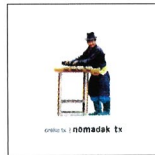
## Oreka Tx Nömadak Tx

World Village 468085

Full Price (51 mins)

★★★★

**Multimedia musicians spank  
some planks**



Fancy some *txalaparta* and *sitar*, with a touch of throat singing accompanied by the clack of Berber castanets? Basque

musicians Oreka Tx play the unusual txalaparta – two planks of wood laid on a stand which are struck rhythmically with round wooden sticks, creating a sound best described as a cross between a huge wind chime and a *marimba*. *Nömadak Tx* captures the fruits of a journey made by Harkaitz and Igor (aka Oreka Tx) to meet musicians in Mongolia, the Sahara, Sámiland and India. What we hear is an eclectic mix underpinned by the attractive percussive resonance of txalaparta wood. Recording on the hoof – in the back of a van, a tent and even in an igloo – each piece is different, from the catchy 'Saapmi', to 'Jai Adivasi', sung with an Indian village group playing a host of unfamiliar instruments.

It differs from recent world music journeys taken by, say, Damon Albarn, because it's both improvised and experimental. With subtle contributions from Basque musicians such as the veteran singer Mikel Laboa, *Nömadak Tx* is a record that takes you to musical places as magic and other-worldly as they are recognisable and real.

*Jan Fairley*