

ORCHESTRE
INTERNATIONAL
DU
VETEX



'Fifavela' is the name of the 4th album of Orchestre International du Vetex, the colorful and cross-border collective with musicians from Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France. On this new album, produced by Roel Poriau (Think of One, Antwerp Gipsy Ska), Vetex reveals itself as a particular versatile and compact band. 12 new songs from homecomposer-trumpetplayer Thomas Morzewski which float between melancholic balkanmusic, twisted afrobeat or contagious cumbia...The ideal soundtrack for a cold winter!

The Orchestre International du Vetex isn't a band out of the blue. More than that, it's a collective of about 12 musicians, from Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France. Since they started up in 2004 in the former textile-plant in the Sint-Jans neighbourhood of Kortrijk, the band played more than 800 concerts in a row. From blockparty's in Wazemmes, Jemappes, Béziers or Stasegem, to big festivals like Couleur Café, La Fête de l'Huma, Dranouter or Esperanzah. From the squares in Sarajevo to the metro in Prague. From the Olympic Wintergames in Torino, or Mons 2015 to prestigious jazz-and theaterfestivals in Graz, Krakow, Nis, Santander or Montreal...From honeymoons to funerals, from street-theatre to rock-festivals. Vetex does it all.

A real cross-border orchestra let's say. And what's more, an orchestra that continuously longs to discover new horizons and cultural influences. And one can immediately notice this desire by listening to 'Fifavela'. "It's been a while now that we also mix up some southern influences in our music", says composer and trumpetplayer Thomas Morzewski. "By the end of 2012 we did quit an intense tour in Latin-America, with concerts in Argentina and Uruguay. We played together over there with 'big names' like Manu Chao and Raly Barrionuevo, but we also met quit a few local musicians with whom we created later on the production Rumbabalkanika, a search for similarities between Balkan-music and latin-american rhythms like cumbia, rumba or chacarera. Of course, this has been a huge inspiration for this new album." But also a tour through Central-Europe in the summer of 2015 beared a lot of new ideas and inspiration. Together with the Polish photographer Piotr Spigiel, Vetex wandered around in Krakow and Wroclaw to visit some rare places and to make some original photoshoots, photos which appear also in the booklet of Fifavela...

Opener 'Carnaval Chtilombiano' immediately sets the tone: a catchy melody, groovy basslines, frivolous percussion. The trademark of composer Morzewski. And no, Vetex isn't a latin-or balkanorchestra 'pur sang', but a willful cross-border and style-transcending collective that makes accessible music, straight from the heart. 'Čoček Ljubičasti' and 'Kolo Gagarino' take you out to a

Serbian wedding-party with rakija and ajvar. "It's obvious for us that Balkan-music still is an important source of inspiration", says accordion-player Jean-Baptiste Lison. "We still learn so much and get so much inspiration by touring around in the Balkans. And in the meanwhile, we got friends with so many local musicians, that we really feel at home over there." So no wonder that the Bosnia-Herzegovinian trumpet-player Ivan Susac participated also on the album.

Those who saw Vetex live, know that the band really wraps up its public. "Young or old, Flemish or Walloon, Bosnian or Serbian, French or Argentinian, poor or rich, it really doesn't matter", says trombone-player Pieter Dubois. "During our shows, we really try to move the audience, dancing and crying are allowed." 'Fifavela WM'14', 'Op de Grens' and 'Cumbia Internacional' for instance are made to dance, a must for each New Year's Eve party. But then again 'Borealis Babylonia' makes you dream away on the solitary Adriatic coastline of Dubrovnik... 'Good Bye Maputo' and 'Good Evening Kinshasa' are drowned in a sultry reggae-and afrobeat-atmosphere, while 'Tarantelle n°10 – La Golosa' and 'Cassini Division' makes perfectly clear the Italian roots of trumpet-player Morzewski...

In comparison to predecessor 'Total Tajine', 'Fifavela' was recorded in its own country Belgium. But it is without any doubt the most compact album Vetex produced till now. Production is done by Roel Poriau and that's no coincidence. "We tried above all to keep alive the typical dynamics and creativity", says Poriau. "I really wanted the songs to sound like as if a southern Balkan-band or an Eastern-inspired latinband would play them. Vetex so to say." On 'Fifavela' one can hear some remarkable guests like Amel Serra Garica (Bart Peeters,...) on percussion or Nathan Daems (ex-Vetex, Black Flower) and Lionel Raepsaet (ex-Vetex, Skip the Use) on sax. And the spicy samples of DJ Courtasock makes the whole even more fresh...

In 2017 Vetex was playing the famous 'Chaoyang Spring Festival' in Beijing...

Info:

www.vetex.org

Pressphotos:

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