

www.folkworld.de/67/e/cds3.html

A long-established group playing Franco-Belgian music, Cecilia have several albums to their name. This newest one is very pleasant, slightly rustic and sharing enough with the French and Brabant traditions to ensure a seamless fit with repertoires from Antwerp and Auvergne to Zaventem and Zeeland. Although the sleeve notes suggest that all the material here was composed by the three band members, I'm sure there are some pieces which have been borrowed pretty much fully-formed from older sources.

Cecilia are Greet Wuyts on button box, Thomas Hoste on hurdy-gurdy, and Jan Leeflang whose pipes always seem to be in a hurry. The trio sound is full and varied, perhaps more suited to listening than dancing in the absence of a rhythm section, but the music is certainly toe-tapping. Bourrées, waltzes, schottisches and polkas, mazurkas and circle dances, and even a Breton "An Dro" keep the rhythm changing. On the Move comes close to an English jig with deft switches from major to minor, and the gavotte Camelus Dromedarius sways distinctly to the east. Katrien has the makings of a fine Swedish Masquerade, it just needs a wee polka like Adeline-Adelijn in the middle. The other tracks are firmly French, and all are well worth a listen. Try www.ceciliafolk.be for more information, and to catch a glimpse of the elusive Cecilia herself.

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