


Pylon Sounds

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Soundroots World Music

SoundRoots provides information about and commentary on ethnic arts and world cultures, particularly what's known around here as "world music." 

Frequent mp3 postings too, so you can listen while you read. Live Locally, Groove Globally!

URL: <http://www.soundroots.org/index.htm>

Updated: 1 hour 45 min ago

World Music from the USA

Fri, 2009-02-06 22:25

The upcoming Olympia Ethnic Festival (see [calendar](#)) compelled us to spin global sounds from right here in the USA -- some of them from our friends and neighbors -- on today's show. Plus new releases and some old faves in hour 2.

More show info at <http://spintheglobe.earball.net>

World Music from the USA: [Spin The Globe](#) playlist for 6 February 2009

Listen/download for a limited time at: soundroots.podomatic.com

hour 1

Quasi Nada - Coroa Imperial - Interrupt This Broadcast
 Rabbinical School Dropouts - Mosquito from Megiddo - Cosmic Tree
 Abrace - Saltando - WSMF sampler
 Vagabond Opera - Hebbina - Vagabond Opera
 Word-Beat - Balafon - The Soul Dances
 Markus James - Takamba Blues - Timbukto Bab
 Orkestar Zirkonium - Nkemtenemmutogatol Oro - Orkestar Zirkonium
 Pink Martini - Mar Desconocido - Hey Eugene!
 Imaginary Homeland - Jump for George - Jump for George
 Guy Mendilow - Awendeje - Live
 Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi - Svalaka Kozatshok - Borscht with Bread, Brothers
 Brothers of the Baladi - Paint It Black - Eye on the World
 Slavic Soul Party - Vranje - Teknochek Collision

hour 2

KAL - Oh Ma Cherie - Radio Romanista
 Ablaye Cissoko & V. Goetze - Bamaya - Sira
 Chiha - JeJeleni - Mystic Bridges
 Berit Opheim Versto - Rudl Etter Trygve Haeve - Slattar Pa Tunga
 John Wubbenhorst - Continuous Celebration - Facing Beloved
 Moh Alileche - Sunset in Tamanrasset - In Memory of a Hero / Ur Ken Tetsu
 Rokia Traore - Zen (remix) - Tchamantche
 Glen Velez - Wren Chant - Assyrian Rose
 Kokoura - Anitie - Anitie
 Zuboly - Pannondrama - Ertem a Kujonsagot
 Zap Mama - Locklat Africa - Sabsylma
 Correo Aereo - El Caiman - Lo Que Me Dijo El Viento

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Arriving late to Esau Mwamwaya's party

Fri, 2009-02-06 01:14

I missed the initial release of this curious mixtape late last year, but this is a true case of better late than never -- not least because the whole 15-track

album is a [free download](#).

Malawi is not the best-known African nation when it comes to music. Heck, the only other band I can think of from Malawi is [Wambali](#). Maybe someone can explain that, but in the meantime we've got this fun stuff from Esau Mwamwaya, who grew up in Malawi's capitol, Lilongwe. He played in bands there before moving to London in 1999, where he ran a second-hand furniture store before returning to music. Is this album his big break?

[mp3] Esau Mwamwaya and Radioclit Are The Very Best: [Kamphopo](#)
from [Esau Mwamwaya and Radioclit Are The Very Best](#)

Finding this album also brought the pleasant discovery of Green Owl, "a NYC-based record label started by artists for artists with the idea that great music can be sustainable—both economically and environmentally." The label produces green music, and will even link you up with folks who can help reduce your carbon footprint.

more Esau Mwamwaya and Radioclit Are The Very Best:

[myspace](#)

[label site](#)

[youtube](#)

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Monday's mp3: Super Bowl Mondae

Tue, 2009-02-03 05:10

I admit it; like many of my fellow North Americans, I could be found yesterday afternoon sitting in front of a TV showing unnaturally huge men crashing into one another.

In my defense, I didn't make a day out of the Super Bowl. Earlier in the day I had gone to church, played a soccer game, and gone to see a play (Israel Horowitz's bold, riveting "[Sins of the Mother](#)"). And during the "big game" I was on my laptop editing photos. Heck, yesterday was a busy day!

And all day I was thinking not of Bruce Springsteen, but of Ozomatli, whose self-titled 1998 album includes this funky ditty.

[mp3] Ozomatli: [Super Bowl Sundae](#)
from the album [Ozomatli](#)

Truth be told, this isn't my favorite track on the album. That distinction would go to "Aqui No Sera" or "Cumbia de los Muertos." Ozomatli is a consistent favorite of mine, though I've never had the chance to see them perform live. I hope to remedy that soon, but in the meantime, enjoy the big game in a whole new light.

More Ozomatli:

[website](#)

[youtube](#)

[facebook](#)

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Year of the Ox: Music of Asia

Fri, 2009-01-30 23:00

Happy Year of the Ox! To celebrate the Lunar New Year, we heard music from all over Asia in the first hour. A little Asian music trickled into hour 2, along with other global sounds. And yes, I had a hankerin' for qawwali today.

The Music of Asia: [Spin The Globe](#) Playlist for 30 January 2009

Listen/download for a limited time at: soundroots.podomatic.com

Hour 1

Portland Taiko - All Is Well - Big Bang

Setsubun Bean Unit - Gujo Ondo - Setsubun Bean Unit

Amjad Ali Khan - Raga Miyan Ki Malhar: Jhala - Romancing the Rains

Chen Dacan Chinese Ensemble - Mu Min Xin Ge - Classical Chinese Folk Music
 Fubuki Daiko - Buffalo - Fubuki Daiko
 Kim Sinh - Lieu durong hoang thien khuc - Music from Vietnam 4
 Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan - Kina Sona - Swan Song
 Pat Waing - New View of Old Song - The Magic Drum Circle of Burma
 Takashi Hirayasu & Bob Brozman - Jin Jin - Jin Jin / Firefly
 Jiang Ting - Spring in Tianshan - Dance
 Uun Budiman & the Jugala Gamelan Orchestra - Kulu-Kulu Sadunya - Banondari: New directions in Jaipongan

Hour 2

Marsada - Baringin Saba Tonga / The Banyan Tree - Pulo Samosir
 Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali - Life and Soul - Day of Colours
 Ali Hassan Kuban - Abu Simbel - Real Nubian
 Femi Kuti - You better ask yourself - Day by Day
 Abdel Ali Slimani - Zeyna - Mraya
 Natraj - Composition in Raga Rageshri - The Goat Also Gallops
 Olodum - Iemanja, Amor do Mar - Carnaval Brasileiro
 Byungki Hwang - Sigyetap / The Clock Tower - The Best of Korean Gayaguem Music
 Byungki Hwang - Hamadan - The Best of Korean Gayaguem Music
 Word-Beat - La Ilaha Illallah / Hevenu Shalom Alejchem - The Soul Dances
 Ikewan - Anass It Charatein - Tuareg Memories
 Figli Di Madre Ignota - Sadoman - Fez Club
 Correo Aereo - Fiesta Llanera - Para Cantarle Al Rio

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Top 10 World Music Albums - January 2009

Fri, 2009-01-30 02:49

Look -- there at the top of the chart -- it's innovative Malian songstress Rokia Traore, who has just released her fourth solo album. "...an exquisitely recorded set that manages to sound contemporary but still distinctively African" raves the Guardian -- and who are we to disagree? Other entries on this month's chart include the Afropean dance sounds of Kokoura, the sacred-electronica of Caren Hope Project, and the Slavic Rock of Mumiy Troll. (We're never accused of settling for just one thing here at SoundRoots!)

SoundRoots / [Spin The Globe](#) Top 10 World Music Albums January 2009

(click on album title for sound samples and more info)

1. **Rokia Traore:** [Tchamantche](#)
2. **Kokoura:** [Anitie](#)
3. **Uxia:** [Eterno Navegar](#)
4. **Caren Hope Project:** [Calling Shiva](#)
5. **Lila Downs:** [Shake Away](#)
6. **Ablaye Cissoko and Volker Goetze:** [Sira](#)
7. **Fula Flute:** [Mansa America](#)
8. **Bat Makumba:** [Boteco](#)
9. **Novalima:** [Coba Coba](#)
10. **Mumiy Troll:** [Comrade Ambassador](#)

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Monday's mp3: Klez-Hop

Tue, 2009-01-27 06:34

This one is a bit off the beaten SoundRoots track, but Jewish rapper eprhyme ("e-prime") has a message, and he's not shy about sharing it. I caught him yesterday at Temple Beth Hatfiloh, where he and neo-klezmer group The Erev Ravs performed separately, and in collaboration.

Some of my favorite pieces were when they shared the stage, but eprhyme's cutting vocals are captivating even when he's performing with pre-recorded

beats. His cleverly worded message on "Beggin for Change" brings a fresh perspective to the urban class clash, and "It's All G_D" finds universal values that transcend religious labels.

But special for you, we've got "Punklezmerap," which relates the autobiographical musical adventures of ephyme (aka Eden Pearlstein) and includes a classic pinched klezmer clarinet riff.

[mp3] ephyme: Punklezmerap
from the album *waywordwonderwill*

An EP with some songs from this album apparently was released on K Records, though the full album isn't listed on their site. So go get it directly from ephyme, and watch for him to make some inroads into the fanbase of folks like Matisyahu and even the Klezmatics.

More ephyme:

[myspace](#)
[at K Records](#)

If you like this, you might also want to check out The Beat Guide to Yiddish, a 25-minute neo-Jewish mixtape ([more info](#)):

Diwon has produced countless electro and hip hop mixes. His use of traditional Yemenite and Sephardic music, however, sets him apart from other artists in the genre. Influenced heavily by his family's roots in Yemen, Ethiopia and Israel, the multicultural maestro is always full of surprises and his latest release, The Beat Guide to Yiddish, is no exception. Diwon's Beat Guide mixes some of his own music into forgotten sounds from Eastern Europe.

[Download the mix for free](#) and hear Yiddish in a way you would have never thought possible. Included on the mix are sounds from; Gershon Kingsley, Jewdyssee, Sam Medoff, Lipa, Seymour Reichtzeit and a few other gems.

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Monday's mp3: Tomer Yosef

Tue, 2009-01-27 06:33

CD REVIEW

Tomer Yosef: *Laughing Underground*

JDub Records

I'm usually the first one to jump on an artist who ignores the obvious: I rail against West African musicians who eschew their fantastic drumming tradition in favor of machine-made beats, or for that matter, most anyone who embraces electronics at the expense of the wonderful acoustic traditions of their culture. I thought about mounting such complaints against Tomer Yosef's latest offering until I was swept up in the flood of infectious rhythms and I no longer cared about such petty complaints.

Yosef (also of [Balkan Beat Box](#)) has made perhaps the ultimate Middle Eastern party album, fusing ethnic motifs with deep booming bass, high-velocity rap with dancehall rhythms. The album defies categorization, drawing from rock, dub, rai, dancehall, pop, hip hop, Gypsy, folk, and who knows what else. Bubbling with borderless energy, the resulting global cocktail may be sung in Hebrew, but it's intended for the healing (and dancing) of nations.

[mp3] Tomer Yosef: I Want to Move
from the album *Laughing Underground*

More Tomer Yosef:

[myspace](#)
[youtube](#)

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)

Monday's mp3: Happy Year of the Ox!

Tue, 2009-01-27 06:32

Okay, I admit it: This song is not about an ox. In the few free moments in an otherwise busy day, I tried to think of an Asian song about oxen to share with you today. And I came up blank.

So instead, you get a song about the ox's cousin, the buffalo.

Fubuki Daiko is an innovative taiko group based in...wait for it... Winnipeg, Manitoba. Yes, that's in Canada. Yes, that's a long way from Japan, both

geographically and culturally. But these folks can throw down with the big drums, and they've got a great sense of humor and musical adventure, as you might guess from the song titles "Lemon Lime Tang" and "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride."

This album was released in 2000. Their second album -- [Zanshin: Leaving the Heart Behind](#) -- was released in 2004. So I'm thinking we're due another album soon.

[mp3]: Fubuki Daiko: [Buffalo](#)
from the album [Fubuki Daiko](#)

Happy New Year!

More Fubuki Daiko:

[website](#)

[youtube](#) (Hiroshi plays drums with light sabers!)

[CBC interview](#)

[flickr photos](#)

Categories: [Music](#), [World](#)
