

Ethno-Trio Troitsa

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As their name confirms, there are three men trading under the name, but between them they've mastered in the region of more , than 30 instruments. Whether plucked, strum, blown or beaten, these instruments are played with consummate skill, richly evoking Belarus. And these wise men don't just collect hardware. Their leader Ivan Kirchuk – a chap of fulsome beard and equally fulsome voice – has amassed hundreds of folk tunes and tales which he's eager to ring-fence, to protect them from the march of globalisation as it dilutes, and even erases, regional distinction and identity. Ethnomusicologists rarely come as passionate or as hands-on as Ivan, under whose careful protection this fascinating – and at times downright groovy – material continues to breathe and prosper.