

penguin eggs

Mélisande [électrotrad]

Les Métamorphoses (La Prêche Libre)



This quote is on the CD cover of *Les Métamorphoses*: “Let our

young musicians be inspired by traditional themes that have been collected, published, or that they discover themselves among the people. Let their imagination, their style and their creative spirit take them far in an adventurous career. When their day comes, we will lend an ear to hear their new creations.” – Marius Barbeau (1883-1969), from the preface of *En roulant ma boule*

This album may not be for those of you who love your traditional music locked in amber—a lovely reminder of the past preserved forever as it was. You know who you are. So to you I say, lighten up and partake in the journey Mélisande has embarked on with her electrobeat and funk up versions of these “chansons traditionnelles”. It’s fun. It’s really well done. And it brings a new spin to those wonderful pieces of music that have been passed down since who knows when.

Mélisande is joined by Robin Boulianne (Yves Lambert, MAZ), Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand (Genticorum, Perdu l’Nord), and producer Mark Busic for this project. They do a great job with lovely vocals and superb playing of guitars, banjos, mandolins, wooden flutes, and claviers under the contemporary programmed beats and techno stuff. I love the respect they show for the songs yet they are not afraid to turn them in unexpected directions.

This is a lovely record. The music is in good hands. Mr. Barbeau would be in the front row—grinning ear to ear.

– By les siemieniuk