

LE VENT DU NORD **Dans Les Airs**



Borealis

For the last 30 years, La Bottine Souriante has defined traditional Québécois music for most people, but more recently, the second most well-known group, particularly outside the province of Québec, has been Le Vent Du Nord. With its third album *Dans Les Airs*, the quartet has recruited a new accordion player (Réjean Brunet, replacing Benoit Bourque)—a change in personnel that probably accounts for the stronger presence here of the hurdy-gurdy, which today is an unusual instrument in Québécois music, taking less of a lead role than in the past. To add some contrast to the mostly jubilant Québécois material, the group offers several bittersweet Acadian songs, and the album closes with a wonderful turlutte—the French-Canadian version of mouth music. *Dans Les Airs* doesn't reveal a bold new sound, but it's certainly one that's been honed to perfection. After winning a slew of prestigious awards (including Canada's Juno for 2004's *Maudite Moisson!*), Le Vent Du Nord are undoubtedly poised to win another one here.

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