The Balkan sound, by way of the Emerald Isle

Ah, the Balkans! Romania, Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Derry, Donegal… Eh?! Thanks to the prowess of a certain bunch of Irish musicians, we can - for this weekend at least - extend the boundaries of the Balkans to include the north-west corner of Ireland. Collectively answering to the name of Balkan Alien Sound, they're a squad of musicians of different persuasions (folkies, jazzers, bluesmen, classical players) all corralled into this celebration of gypsy and klezmer music by bouzouki player/Balkans nut Martin Coyle. And terrific they are too, all spiralling violins, melodious accordions and various stringed instruments - but with the added attraction of the solid groove provided by bass and drums. Close your eyes and you'd believe you were listening to the real thing. Let Balkan Alien Sound be your ticket to a destination somewhat east of here, all without having to endure the airline food or the impolite man in seat 42B.

(Biography written by Nige Tassell, WOMAD 2012)