

# Yiddish Twist Orchestra: Let's Yiddish Twist review – genre-hopping dance fun

4/5 stars

(YTO)



Cheerful singalongs ... Yiddish Twist Orchestra. Photograph: Odi Caspi

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## The Guardian

### Robin Denslow

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Imagine: it's the late 1950s in London's East End, and there's an adventurous Jewish dance band who mix klezmer and Yiddish songs with the new musical influences that have been drifting in from the docks. From the US there's R&B and early rock'n'roll, and from the Caribbean there are ska and Cuban styles. That's the cheerful conceit behind [Yiddish Twist Orchestra](#), a band of eight impressive musicians including twanging guitarist Ben Mandelson, who has played with [Billy Bragg](#) and [Les Triaboliques](#), and singer Natty Bo from [Ska Cubano](#). They start out with the cheerful singalong *Mazl*, a song about good luck and making a buck, and continue in the same style, with a Yiddish twist song (of course) and *Beigels*, which mixes calypso with stories from Whitechapel. There are too many instrumentals, and there's no sign of [their occasional vocalist Sam Lee](#), but this is enormous fun.