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Yorkshire-born to an English mother and a Jordanian father, Manchester-based singer and guitarist Paula is well known across the city and beyond as leader of The Country & Eastern Band, whose members have roots in eight different countries.

Paula has spent time in Turkey and she loves the country's 'people's music' ('folk music' doesn't quite convey the meaning), the more generalised ' Middle Eastern' music of her father, Country and Western music - yes, her famous rendition of Dolly Parton's 'Jolene' is included - and bands such as The Jam and Oasis. So this is indeed Manchester music, whether sung in English, Turkish or Kurdish, accompanied by electric guitars, the Turkish saz, a conventional Western rhythm section or Middle Eastern percussion - though none of these are mutually exclusive on this album.

Sometimes trance inducing, in other places merely laid-back, often very traditional sounding and occasionally a little like an Arabic flavoured REM, often reflective and occasionally maybe angry, Paula hopes that this album will encourage people to ignore the artificial borders (not just) around music. Having witnessed, first-hand, diverse audiences appreciating Paula's music, I think it could just happen and this beautiful album will have done its job.

Norman Darwen