

# GANGBE BRASS BAND

**Whendo** Contre Jour CJ015

From Cotonou, Bénin, a marriage made in heaven – the Black Dyke Mills band goes voodoo, big rich brass achieving levitation with the aid of traditional West African rhythms and voices. This is really something quite breathtaking, a bravura performance, going from roots to Cuba to jazz with total panache, all kinds of tasty association cropping up on the way. At one point I was hearing *Manhattan Spiritual*, Mongo Santamaria the next, then New Orleans, then some TV-detective-show jazz theme I couldn't put my finger on, and all crackling with energy. This is the band's third album, been going ten years. They've done WOMAD, US and European tours, so here's a fully-realised unit that has soaked up a whole lot of influences and created something strong and distinctive. They have wide appeal without a hint of mugging, sentimentalising or dumbing-down. No excuse for ignoring this if you want your spirits raised. [www.contrejour.com](http://www.contrejour.com)

*Rick Sanders*