

# fROOTS

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## SACHA SILVA

**Pentecost** Migrant Worker Records

Canadian based guitarist Silva and his quintet create an unusual sound which feels so right, you wonder why there isn't more of it around. A combination of Indian and Andalusian influences, with touches of western classical and rock. Vocalist Munya B sings her Bengali lyrics over Silva's flamenco-ish guitar, plus percussion, flute and cello. For this, their third album, they've decamped to the Hatch Studios in Worcester, England where they recorded 10 songs live (no overdubs needed), resulting in their best set yet. A proper album, based around themes of faith and exile, and all clad in a fancy cloth sleeve.

This is music of shifting dynamics, intelligence and plaintive melody. The opening *Song Of Fear And Love* lays out their South Asian-meets-rumba stall with great confidence, whilst the pleasingly bluesy *Song Of Separation* speaks of the hardships of a long distance relationship and was apparently influenced by Washington straight-edge punk pioneers Fugazi (just about the last name I'd think of on hearing it, to be honest). *The Pentecost Song* is based on a Bulgarian lullaby that Silva's 87-year-old grandmother sang to him, translated into Bengali and given a beautiful, reflective arrangement. Like much of the album it's suffused with a mood of loss and longing. I'm currently playing it on a warm autumn Sunday morning and really can't think of much else I'd rather be listening to right now.

[www.sachasilva.org](http://www.sachasilva.org)

*Jamie Renton*