

accompanied by plucked strings that moves into a Celtic-sounding tune led by fiddle, show that Rupa & the April Fishes can change gear. But *Build* misses the intensity and abandon of its predecessors.

▶️ **TRACK TO TRY:** *Electric Gumbo Radio*

Tim Woodall

Sez nec Bros Jagged Land

Captain Pouch Records (40 mins)

★★★

Two bros find the blues in the unlikelyst of places



Brothers Cory and Yann Sez nec have been playing music together for some 20 years, despite the fact that Cory lives in

France and Yann lives in Scotland. This album also had its genesis in a number of different places including Edinburgh, Paris and a barn in the French countryside, but that hasn't prevented it from having a perfectly cohesive identity. The music is largely built around a picked banjo, but as

things progress other instruments gradually insinuate themselves. There's subtly distorted electric guitar and gently clicking calabash on the quirky 'Chop it Up,' and some nifty *kamalengoni* (hunter's lute) on 'Jagged Land,' played by guest musician Pedro Kouyaté. There's bar-room blues on 'Trying to Get Home,' which introduces some agreeably cranky piano. The overall sound is clearly influenced by the fact the brothers spent many of their formative years living on the US East Coast. But although one is reminded of artists as diverse as Jim White, the Carolina Chocolate Drops and Fleetwood Mac – as well as Appalachian mountain music and Malian blues – the brothers' songs are sufficiently idiosyncratic to transcend all of these influences in order to assert their own identity.

On the down side, it all sounds a little too self-contained, both production-wise and performance-wise. If they'd just upped the Captain Beefheart rumbustiousness hinted at on, for example, 'Tears are Gold,' it would have