

## **SPIREA X**

### **LIVERPOOL**

### **TEMPTATION 2**

DESPITE LUMBERING themselves with a ludicrous name, Spirea X are off to a flying start. Four months old and only a couple of gigs behind them, they're already making good trancey, dancey music for baggy people. This, their first excursion outside of their native Scotland, demonstrates the persuasive power of their itchy indie dance vibe and makes the accusations of blatant opportunism seem mealy-mouthed and premature.

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Old hand Jim Beattie (former Primal Scream guitarist) has assembled a bunch of eager, talented youngsters around him, and although it's obviously early days yet, they're already hinting at potential greatness. They open a six-song set with their anthemic theme song 'Spirea Rising', a chugging, twisted beat monster liberally laced with shards of piercing guitar. Other tunes are more darkly melodic, with waif-like singer Judith struggling to make her vocals heard above the swampy mix and the relentless wash of the greedy guitars.

Not surprisingly, there's a definite Scottish air evident in what they're doing and echoes of recent dancefloor-friendly Primal Scream are well to the fore, making it easy to absorb their dream quality and lose yourself in their loose-limbed funky rock groove.

**Kev McManus**