



HANGGAI

He Who Travels Far

WORLD CONNECTION



Mongolian band beef up their 'Chinagrass' on atmospheric second album

Hanggai's founder, Ilchi, used to front a Beijing punk band, and his group have toured the West's festival circuit since their debut album, so it's no surprise this follow-up adds muscle to their flowing acoustics via bigger guitars and more growling 'throat singing'. The folk song of Mongolia's grasslands remains their inspiration, with horsehair fiddle and lute dancing on cheery gallops like "Zhang

Dan". Darker atmospheres come on a closing quartet of songs where the group rock out, notably on "Dorov Morlaril", where guest guitarist Marc Ribot throws in, not entirely helpfully, a Quo-sized riff. *Neil Spencer*