Kokoroko

Some names become almost synonymous with a style, a movement or an era. About ten years ago, London regained its position as leading capital of jazz music thanks to its young scene, and Kokoroko is one of the names which come immediately to mind when talking about those British bands. This octet didn’t only define the new sound with a specific idea of large acoustic ensembles as well as the influence of the Fela Kuti’s afrobeat of the Nigerian *highlife*. But those eight artists also revealed a new facet of this musical style, which is open to everyone (the *co-leader* and trumpet player Sheila Maurice-Grey is one of the key artists of this scene), re-establishing partying and dancing. This is this collective dimension that the band holds very high with its new album *Tuff Times Never Last*: while preserving the basics, they also turn to soul and R&B, and they put singing in the spotlight, with an undeniable talent for heady chorus and soothing melodies. A call to light, which is more necessary than ever, continues on stage and strengthens a little more their status of band which is considered to be one of the most noteworthy, accessible and original of the past few years.