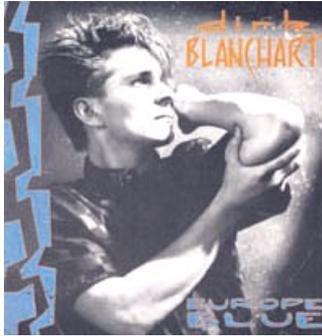


## dirk Blanchart - selection press reviews albums & concerts

Albums in inverse chronological order according to release dates.



### **EUROPE BLUE (Re-release Remastered & Extended Edition 2012, SonoFab)**

'His debut album from 1985 - for the first time on CD - sounds surprisingly fresh almost thirty years later. Versatile too, with radio hits like "I Don't Mind", "Cockpit", "Fool Yourself Forever" and "Drop Me In A City" as highlights. A classic.'

**De Morgen**, oct 2012

'Every Belpop fan knows the singles *I Don't Mind*, *Cockpit*, *Drop Me in a City* and *Fool Yourself Forever*, but will also as easily recognize the timeless class of the crooned *Better* and the futuristic chamber music of *Babylon*. Also the production has endured the test of time well.'

**Gazet van Antwerpen**, oktober 2012

'You can't deny the fact that the man had a feeling for good pop songs, which he would prove later on on his own records and production work for Elisa Waut and Lenny & De Wespen.'

**RifRaf**, november 2012

'A lot of songs stood the test of time'.

**Het Nieuwsblad**, oktober 2012



### **PRETTY DARK ALBUM (SonoFab 2006)**

'Blanchart seems to be mixing various influences in his songs but manages -in a masterly way- to keep only what's essential... For those willing to let them take on his trip, enjoy the beautiful *Love is for losers*, a song that deals equally with natural disaster as with real personal feelings; or *Gates of heaven*, an evocation of heaven in sound and words'.

**De Standaard**, 14/10/2006

'Sailors cry bitter tears, love is something for losers en there's a preview of his own mortality and death (in the wonderful *If I should go before my time*). The title is perfectly chosen: this album is *pretty* and *dark*'.

**De Morgen**, 25/9/2006, 4\*

'The opening track *If I should go* -a superb melody on a bed of guitars- already makes it clear that this is gonna be a special ride.... The dark and stylish *Life in the suburb* evolves in 2 parts that feel like one song to its climax... Blanchart has never sung better, as you can hear on the subdued *Love is for losers*... *Girl from outer space* has everything to become a modest dB-classic... an excellent and homogeneous album'.

**Stage**, nov 2006, 4\*

'...there are some songs on this album that really hit the mark: *Life in the suburb* (with the girls choir), *Girl from outer space* (thé song of the album...)... and *Albatross/Simple*, a cover of the instrumental Fleetwood Mac-classic, here with added lyrics by dB'.

**RifRaf**, nov 2006

'Stars come and go but dB manages to shine on.... you'll hear a master craftsman in excellent form who's made his most complete and best album since *Blow* (1992)... the barking guitars in *Life in the suburb* and *Nothing like my girl* show that he and Chris Whitley crossed paths at some time...In grand style also are *Love is for losers* and *Albatross / Simple*, the Fleetwood Mac classic that he provided with squidgy guitars and his own lyrics... *Gates of heaven* with its beautiful string arrangement, is a turning point: after this the album becomes less dark and more pretty'.

[www.digg.be](http://www.digg.be), 21/11/2006, 4\*

'Songs like *Love is for losers* and *Pre-millennium friend* stick immediately but you'd better dim the lights and pour yourself a heartwarming drink while listening to this album'.

**Menzo**, nov 2006

'*Life in the suburb* ... so strong that it elevates the album to a higher level... those heavenly children's voices...'

**P-Magazine**, nov 2006

'A rather dark album that contrasts a bleak world view with inventive pop music... deals with a world that slowly destroys itself and with the loss of innocence, symbolised on the cover by a pretty image of a child with clouds as wings'

**Gazet van Antwerpen**, 28/10/2006

'...a new album by the man who showed as one of the first that Belgian pop music is not synonymous with 'snug and cosy'... dB excells once again as a songwriter...intelligent lyrics and musical arrangements... 9 out of 11 is an outstanding result in our books. Glad he's back'.

**Artsenkrant**, nov 2006



**BEATS & BALLADS 1980 - 2005 (SonoFab 2005)**

'A quarter of a century later, the conclusion is that Blanchart has always fulfilled those high musical standards (as on the *Luna Twist* debut album). His music stands the test of time'.

**De Standaard**, 'Re-release of the week', 2/5/2005

'...this double cd is an excellent introduction to his work... what stands out clearly is his versatility. From danceable electro-wave (*'I don't mind'*) to sultry jazz (*'Drop me in a city'*) to classic pop (*'It's about time'*), from English cool to Dutch repertoire: he masters it all. It's about time that dB is (re)discovered by the mainstream public'.

**De Morgen**, 20/5/2005, 4\*

'Nice. Pleasing voice, beautiful chords, good production: inventive but not overdone. Excellent break and bridge. I'd turn up the radio if I heard this song in my car. Definitely a man with a musical vision and attention to musical subtleties. I'd hire him as an arranger'.

**Humo**, 30/10/05, **Mike Stoller** -of legendary American songwriters duo Leiber & Stoller- after listening to 'Reasons unknown', one of the 32 tracks on 'Beats & Ballads 1980 - 2005'.

'A delightful remix of *I don't mind (if the Sputnik lands')* and jewels as *Heart beats faster* and *Golden inside* make this compilation a 'must have'.

**Vacature**, 7/5/2005

'...(dB) wrote Belgian pop history... what proves his class is that despite the sometimes generous use of electronics, his music emerges almost intact from the time machine. New recordings like the atmospheric *As 3* and a remix of *I don't mind (if the Sputnik lands)* should generate new chances...'

**Gazet van Antwerpen**, 25/4/2005

'If ever the idea should arise within the ministry of Culture to install a pop music manager, we can only hope that they choose someone with real pop nobility... who earned respect as a songwriter, musician, arranger, lyric writer, producer and talent scout... who knows the ins and outs of the music industry jungle... who knows his classics but is always willing to experiment and is the opposite of a one trick pony... an individual as well as a teamplayer, equally at ease in the studio as on stage. dirk Blanchart would fit the description perfectly. (*this compilation*) is perfect for those who always wanted to buy a dB-record but never did (there's too many of you out there), for the new kids in town who want to be exposed to an essential part of our national music history and for the die-hard fans.... Blanchart has become a genre on his own'.

[www.digg.be](http://www.digg.be), 11/5/2005, 4½ \*

'I couldn't tell you the titles of 5 of them but on this double cd I absolutely recognize a lot of (radio) hits and definitely a lot of fantastic songs. We think this album's so good that we bombarded it 'cd of the week'.

[www.showbizsite.be](http://www.showbizsite.be), 9/5/2005

'April was back again crammed with national releases. Of the 17 new albums that landed on our desk there's one that stood out: 'Beats & Ballads 1980-2005', the obstinate retrospective of dB on his own 25 years old musical career. ...About his music we can all agree on one thing: it stands the test of time. Especially on the *Beats*-cd it's crystal clear how inventive and timeless he always sounded, as well with *Luna Twist*, solo or with *Monobird*. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> cd *Ballads* it are the songs themselves that demand respect'.

**Muziekcentrum**, 13/5/2005

'No run-off-the-mill package but a double with a plan. 25 years of obstinacy obstinately selected'.

**Libelle**, 25/5/2005

'A selection of the best from those 25 years'.

**TV-Gids**, 20/5/2005

'The last thing you could say of dB is that he's a one trick pony'.

**De Tijd**, interview 25/4/2005

'A real lexicon of styles from the past 25 years: eclectic, narrative and sometimes charmingly faded by time'.

**Le Vif**, 25/5/2005



**MONObIRD / Icon-o-Mix (duo project, SonoFab 2002)**

'A refreshing idea... playful as a young kitten....international allure...'.  
[De Morgen, 5\\*](#)

'More than successful and undoubtedly opens new perspectives'.  
[De Tijd / Cultuur](#)

'A virtuoso mix of exciting rhythms and haunting melodies, handled with humour and subtility'.  
[Dag Allemaal](#)

'A lot of the tracks have a subtle couleur locale'.  
[Knack](#)

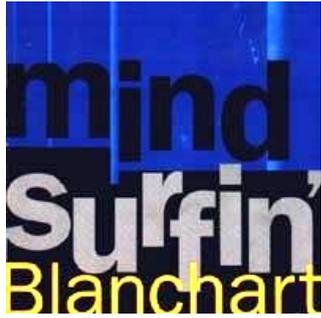


**SCHIETSTOEL (OORWOUD 1998)**

'One of his best records in 15 years solo career'.  
[De Standaard](#)

'One of the most intelligent and up-to-date pop records since months'.  
[Knack](#)

'.... his records sound as timeless today as when they were first released'.  
[De Morgen](#)



**MINDSURFIN' (EMI 1995)**

'...reveals new secrets by every listen, as well in the details as in the clever song structures.... deserves a place of honour in record shops all over the globe'.

[Het Laatste Nieuws](#)

'Anno 1995 Blanchart is still synonymous for international class'.

[De Morgen](#)

'Seldom was a single so infectious as 'It's about time'.

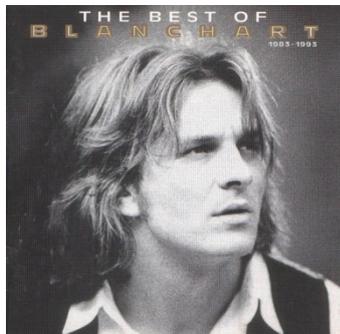
[Het Belang van Limburg](#)

'...an equally staggeringly rich as subtle album. The key to the treasury is in the title song'.

[Dag Allemaal](#)

'dB never really was my cup of tea so I was pleasantly surprised by the hefty couple that kicks off 'Mindsurfin'.

[Humo](#)



**THE BEST OF BLANCHART 1983-1993 (EMI 1993)**

'These 18 precious pearls remind us of the fact that dB's been doing brilliant things in the past 10 years'.

[Panorama](#)

'That Blanchart never recorded an album in his whole career that qualifies as less than 'good' is unique even by international standards'.

[Humo](#)

'Ten years of obstinacy'.

[Knack](#)

'...proof of a unique sensibility. Old and new work alike are in the same faultless category, dignified, pure and melodically accurate... '.

[TéleMoustique](#)

'...one by one world class songs as have seldom seen the light of day in Belgium'.

[Backstage](#)



### **BLOW (EMI 1992)**

'Blow : Blanchart at his best'.

[Het Nieuwsblad](#)

'...sense of detail, originality and the gift to prop up 4 musical styles into 1 song, without the latter yielding thereto. Blanchart has found a new wind'.

[Humo](#)

'With the magnificent neo-traditional hobo-song 'Vertigo blues' he has got himself a green card for the USA'.

[Music & Media](#)

'...often a songsmith of the international kind'.

[Knack](#)

'It is now up to the general public to finally recognise this talented artist who refuses to fall into the kind of variety shows performed by his co-disciples'.

[Le Soir](#)

'...new album showing an undeniable artistic maturity'.

[La Dernière Heure](#)



### **MAMA LUBA (BMG Ariola 1990)**

'...a surprise in the sense that, apart from the known quality of his songwriting, you'll find a radiant smile in the songs on this album, which is pretty unusual for dB'.

[TeleMoustique](#)

'Touchingly beautiful music....in the grand manner.... should appeal internationally'.

[Backstage](#)

'Blanchart is back from never having been away in the first place'.

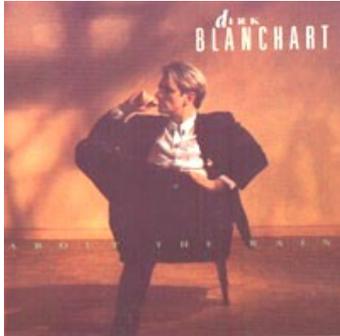
[Humo](#)

'...a serious step towards broad recognition by the so called 'general' public'.

[RifRaf](#)

'Under the banner 'obstinate national pop', this is thé eye-catcher.... a direct hit artistically'.  
Gazet van Antwerpen

'...one of the better albums in recent times'.  
De Morgen



**ABOUT THE RAIN (BMG Ariola 1989)**

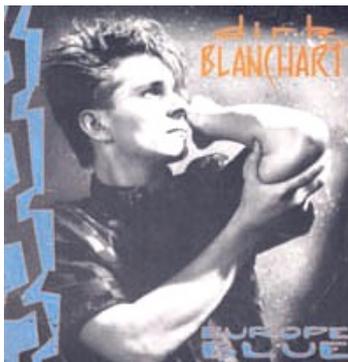
'...opens brilliantly with 'Talking about the rain', a song like a thunder-cloud'.  
Humo

'The blues à la Van Gogh....his songs remind me of the work of a painter'.  
Rock This Town

'Not without pretensions... 'About the rain' is a brilliant album'.  
Knack

'...top of the list in a very productive Flemish music scene'.  
Het Nieuwsblad

'...testimony of his love for music, the album radiates a hefty bluesy atmosphere'.  
Het Belang van Limburg, Stijn Meuris



**EUROPE BLUE (Statik UK 1985)**

'Debut of the year in this country'.  
Het Nieuwsblad

'dB delivers his first solo album and it is a triumph. Not only does it deserve to be Belgian album of the year, it should also raise some brows and open doors internationally'.  
Het Volk

"Cockpit' has the allure of a classic and is at the same time music for the future;  
'Fool yourself forever' should become a hit in a just world'.

[Humo](#)

'Passionated ... a fascinating album because it's a bit unequal; unequal because it's impossible to be a genius for the full 40 minutes'.

[TéléMoustique](#)

'Without any doubt Belgium's most talented songwriter, something that's even more apparent live on stage than on record'.

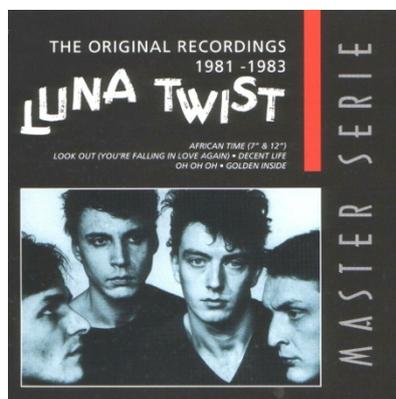
[The Bulletin](#)

'...dB as a songwriter, arranger and producer is worth more than just a Belgian ovation'.

[Muziekkrant OOR](#)

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## DIRK BLANCHART with LUNA TWIST



**LUNA TWIST**

'Modern but not snobistic, avant-garde but not elitist.... the band that builds a bridge between tradition and future.... Blanchart's primus inter pares 'Bop again' by itself does more against 'stupid Belgian'-jokes than 10 Brakke Gronden ever could'. (*Brakke Grond is a Flemish cultural centrum in Amsterdam -ed*).  
([Humo](#), 1982, review album 'A different smell from the same perfume')

'The excellent reunion concert in Ghent was testimony to the fact that the band was very much ahead of its time 25 years ago. It was a very pleasant experience to hear those songs blossom again as if that quarter century hadn't been there. One of the better reunions of the last years, and one with potential.'  
([De Standaard](#), oktober 2008, [Handelsbeurs Gent](#))

'For now, Luna Twist is thé best Belgian band : a modern sound, varied, solid and catchy... despite Allez Allez, despite TC Matic'.  
([TéléMoustique](#), 1982, review Belgium Pop Festival, Antwerpen)

'The best from that period in Belgium saved from oblivion'.  
([Humo](#), 1998, compilation 'The original recordings 81- 83')

'Roxy Music was there but Luna Twist stole the show... world class!'.  
([Het Volk](#), 1982, Luna Twist as support-act with Roxy Music)

'There are moments when reality surpasses fiction.... where one would like to stop the time to relive something exceptional again and again. I had 2 such moments in one week, and on both occasions it was triggered by a

Luna Twist concert'.

(Télemoustique, 1982, about Luna Twist being support-act to Roxy Music + another gig)

'I think Luna Twist is still one of the most underrated Belgian bands ever, at that time at the same level of The Stranglers or INXS or any international band you'd care to mention. But there was no money, no marketing, no real management.... I'm speaking of a time when you could hear literally 4 hours of rock music per week on the national radio'.

(P-Magazine, 2002, Cas Van der Taelen)

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## dirk Blanchart - selection press reviews live

'dB presented his new album live with an eye for stripped-down simplicity... He didn't lose any of his tongue-in-cheekness: he sneaked dEUS' riff of *Hotellounge* into his own *Heart beats faster*, thereby teasingly insinuating that he was there first... the stunning *If I should go (before my time)* reflects upon his own mortality... that he didn't fall flat on his face by covering Fleetwood Mac's *Albatross* (and providing it with his own lyrics) proves that this songsmith can stand any comparisons with icons like David Bowie or Lou Reed... To please the Luna Twist nostalgics he performed *Oh oh oh* on an Omnichord (a children's musical toy). It sounded surprisingly and fantastic... One could only hope that the rest of the world was watching this concert through the AB's online webcams'.

De Morgen, live review AB Club, Brussels (B), 25/9/2006, 4\*

'This concert was like a memorable Christmas gift with a big satin bow around for the many people present. Dirk certainly can sing, and play guitar, and write songs, and choose covers and what else ... T-Bone Blanchart! [rootstime.be](http://rootstime.be) , dB solo, Club Arcsène, Hansbeke (B), dec 2014

'Blanchart has already written a decent song catalog together over the past three decades .... amongst them some forgotten gems that belong to the best of what Flanders has ever produced .... his intact voice was a true delight to the ear. Also the intimate lounge atmosphere created in the hall was entirely to our liking. Of the new songs we remember especially *If I should go*, *Life in the suburb* and *Pre-Millennium friend*. Each song was introduced in such an authentic and straightforward fashion that it seemed as if everyone was accosted by him personally. With his Ghent accent and astute observations, he also kept his chances intact for a passage in "Comedy Casino".

<http://woutersroadblog.blogspot.com> , live review at De Vieze Gasten, Gent (B), dec 2006

'Whether acoustic or electric, Blanchart enchanted the audience with his own songs (how many classics can a man write?) and surprising covers. Intimate yet with the atmosphere of a rock show. From whisper quiet to bluesy to straight ahead rock, escape is impossible. Fortunately!'

Ben De Coninck, librarian, dB solo, library Destelbergen (B), dec 2014

'Joni Mitchell's 'Hejira' turned out to be one of the many highlights of this gig'.

Het Nieuwsblad, 1985, about dB's live debut as a solo artist

'dB treated the Dutch press to an excellent trio concert, something that he would repeat later that evening for a packed and enthusiastic Tivoli'.

Het Nieuwsblad, 1993, press show Crowded House en support Tim Finn, Utrecht, Holland

'dB leaves the competition stand watching with his 'Dutch-ified' live show'.

Het Nieuwsblad, 1997, live Gentse Feesten, Gent (B)

'Combination of many vocals and percussion, silences and controlled noise..... complete unique formula, not comparable to anything worldwide'.

Het Volk, 1991, live dB & The Groove Quartet, Eeklo (B), (thé) Luc De Vos

'dB illustrated that also a minimal line-up can do excellent justice to good songs'.

De Morgen, 1993, live Cactus Festival, Bruges (B)

'....moments of tension and beauty : 'Fool yourself forever', 'Cockpit',....'Bop again' and a perfectly personalised adaptation of Iggy Pop's 'Lust for life'.

Humo, 1985, live Vooruit, Gent (B)

'Blanchart closes the festival : magnificently beautiful'.

Het Volk, 1989, live Lokerse Feesten, Lokeren (B)

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