

Gypsy Jazz Caravan

Intro Gypsy Jazz Caravan is a New York City based acoustic ensemble that plays Hot Jazz inspired by the music of legendary French Gypsy guitarist, Django Reinhardt, and jazz violinist, Stephane Grappelli. Gypsy Jazz Caravan's extensive repertoire includes swing standards, ballads, Bossa Novas, tangos, waltzes and a growing number of original compositions. The lineup includes: NY veteran guitarist, Marc Daine, who has recorded for RCA records and toured with the Broadway show, "Big River"; virtuoso violinist, Rob Thomas, who JazzTimes calls "a violinist of exceptional creative resources... riveting as a solo voice with a rich complex tone that can sing or shriek"; bassist, Mike Weatherly, who has performed for President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and Pope John Paul II and top NY Gypsy Swing rhythm guitarist, Glenn Tosto.

Buzz "This is one of the newest and freshest Django style bands to emerge in the last few years and from Brooklyn, of all places. New tunes, new solos and great violin playing by the wonderful Rob Thomas. Glenn Tosto's rhythm guitar playing is just superb on this recording and is well worth the price of admission in itself. Marc Daine's lead swings throughout."

-Frank Vignola's review of Gypsy Jazz Caravan's CD- *Pour Les Zazous* October, 2006

Gypsy Jazz Caravan truly transformed our backyard tulipfest into a day in the park with the most wonderful sounds. They were professional but not stiff. Fantastic mood setting music and yet at the same time, riveting to watch as they skillfully play their respective instruments. As if you had stumbled into the most amazing band in a park and wanted to lay back on the grass and listen for hours. I would highly recommend them.

-Adam G, Westport, CT, 2010

"All tunes on this album are originals crafted by Marc Daine, and while this is pastiche music, it is so well absorbed from the general Django-Grappelli style as to be indistinguishable from the old numbers. Daine and cohorts have soaked up all the nuances of style and idiom and produced a kind of generic music that would fool experts and casual listeners alike."

-William J. Shafer's review of Gypsy Jazz Caravan's CD- *Pour Les Zazous, The Mississippi Rag*, June 2008

"We were celebrating our 50th anniversary at the legendary 21 Club and those guests who braved the weather were in need of a big time pick-me-up. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres helped, but the real saviors were an amazing group of musicians They played with such vigor and passion the crowd soon forgot the lousy weather outside. It was a hand-clapping, foot stomping, head-bobbing musical experience talked about long after the party ended."

-Jud Alper, former Creative Director, MCA Advertising



Bios

Marc Daine Lead Guitar



Guitarist Marc Daine has been playing jazz around NYC since 1970. He graduated from New York City's Queens College with a major in music and has studied privately-classical guitar with Elana Valdi, and jazz guitar with Howard Morgan, Joe Monk and Steve Khan.

Marc has recorded for RCA records as a member of the band "Steel Angel," and performed with the national tour of the Broadway musical "Big River." His guitar, banjo and mandolin playing has been heard on numerous national commercial jingles, including: Dodge Trucks, Country Time Lemonade and Post Cereals. Marc has performed backing up a diverse array of talent including: Cindy Lauper, Allen Toussaint, Shawn Colvin, Curtis Steigers, Eddie Fisher and Suzanne Summers.

His first CD *The Unified Cornfield Theory* was an unusual instrumental coupling of swing jazz and country music. In 2006 he released a CD of his original music written in the style of the great Django Reinhardt, entitled *Pour les Zazous* with his band Gypsy Jazz Caravan.

Rob Thomas Violin



Rob Thomas has been recognized by international critics and audiences as one of the most original, technically adept and powerful violinists playing jazz and contemporary music.

JazzTimes calls him "a violinist of exceptional creative resources... riveting as a solo voice with a rich complex tone that can sing or shriek". Thomas has been a complex and shrieking part (although certainly not rich) of the music scene in New York City since moving there in 1991. In the mid '90's he toured and recorded extensively with The Jazz Passengers, often with featured guests Elvis Costello and Deborah Harry. In 2001 Rob accepted the violin chair in the String Trio of New York, joining guitarist James Emery and bassist John Lindberg as the legendary group began its 23rd season. He is also a member of the critically acclaimed Mahavishnu Project, an adventurous repertory ensemble that explores (with the Maestro's blessing and encouragement) the music of John McLaughlin's Mahavishnu Orchestra. He is an active free-lancer, contributing to recent recordings by Lee Konitz, Andy Summers, Los Jovenes Del Barrio and Marc Ribot. He has also performed with The John Handy 'Monterey' Quintet, Max Roach, Jan Hammer, Bobby Previte, Claude Williams, The Soldier String Quartet and Akua Dixon's Quartette Indigo.

While studying classical violin and music theory in his hometown of Eugene at the University of Oregon, Thomas became fascinated with jazz and soon began working with the local players. He later moved to Portland and eventually toured throughout the Pacific Northwest as a leader on violin and a sideman on bass (on which he "doubled expertly" according to Leonard Feather in a Los Angeles Times festival review), gaining valuable experience in pick-up bands with jazz greats such as Joe Henderson, Bobby Hutcherson, Charlie Rouse, Eddie Harris, Mose Allison, Nat Adderly, and others. Rob's own groups made regular appearances at regional clubs and festivals and often included such notable musicians as Glen Moore, Nancy King, Jerry Hahn, and John Handy. Thomas still enjoys playing the bass, and toured Asia in 2004 as bassist with the Grammy Award winning vocal ensemble, New York Voices.

Also an active educator, Thomas taught in the Northwest at Reed and Marylhurst Colleges, and at Cornish College of the Arts. He is currently an Associate Professor of Strings at Boston's Berklee College of Music, and an adjunct instructor at the New School University in New York.

Bios

Mike Weatherly String Bass



Mike Weatherly is a second-generation bassist from the desert southwest. He has carried on the tradition of high musical standards in a wide range of genres from Big Band to Cajun, Western Swing and Jazz. He is also no stranger to gospel as he is the bassist for the Lafayette Inspirational Ensemble who is regularly featured in the “Sounds of Praise” Gospel brunch series at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYC. He has performed for former President Bill Clinton, Nelson Mandela, and for the Pope’s 20th anniversary celebration. A regular with the Stan Rubin Big Band, he has also performed with The Ed Polcer Allstars, jazz banjoist Cynthia Sayer, folk singer Pete Seeger, the composer Philip Johnston, the R&B singer, Fontella Bass, Western legend, Patsy Montana, Banu Gibson and many others. Mike is one of New York City’s most sought-after bassists in numerous musical genres, plus is also known for his vocal skills.

Mike has performed at numerous festivals including the Vancouver Island Music festival in Canada, The Pete Seeger Clearwater Revival in New York State, the TriBeCa film festival in New York City, the Bix Beiderbecke Jazz Festival in Iowa, and others. Off-Broadway productions include “Always, Patsy Cline” and Keely Garfield’s “Free Drinks for Women with Nuts.” Mike can be seen and heard in the upcoming documentary “Body of War” produced by Phil Donohue.

Mike can be heard on the Gypsy Jazz Caravan’s *Pour les Zazous* and a number of other recordings, he also continues to tour regularly.

Glenn Tosto Rhythm Guitar



Glenn Tosto is at the forefront of the Gypsy Jazz revival, playing rhythm guitar for two top Gypsy Swing bands in New York City. He performs regularly with Gypsy Jazz Caravan, sharing the stage with some of New York’s finest musicians, including: Dan Levinson- clarinet; Jon Burr- bass; Zach Brock- violin; Vinny Raniolo- guitar, Jonathan Russell- violin and many others. Glenn is also the rhythm guitarist for Lower Eastside Hot Club, a gypsy swing band led by longtime Stephane Wrembel sideman, Joel Beaver. In April of 2011, Glenn performed as sideman for guitar virtuoso, Frank Vignola. He is scheduled to perform additional dates with The Frank Vignola Trio in the summer of 2011. From 2003 until mid 2006, Glenn played with The Metropolitan Hot Club; another Django style band out of Goshen NY. Recently Glenn has been involved in a solo project that he is producing in his home studio in the East Village.

Glenn has lived in Manhattan since 1989, playing in NYC nightclubs such as CBGBs; Webster Hall; Café Wha?, as well as many others with his rock bands Dogtown Balladeers; Torn and Frayed and Baby Strange. Glenn credits hearing a Django Reinhardt CD while in London in 1999 for shifting his musical focus from rock to jazz -specifically Gypsy Jazz. Glenn, who has an MBA from Dowling College, has been studying guitar with Frank Vignola since 2002 and coauthored a guitar lesson book with Frank, which will be released with video in 2011. Glenn wrote his first Gypsy Jazz song, entitled “For Tina”, which can be heard on Gypsy Jazz Caravan’s 2008 CD release *Sinister Amusement*. He continues to write songs in the Gypsy Swing genre and is committed to keeping this style of music alive.



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