

THE TIPSY GYPSY TRIO

biography



booking:
Trevel Beshore
415 643 9431

booking@tipsygypsytrio.com

www.tipsygypsytrio.com

The Music

The Topsy Gypsy Trio is a jazz group focusing on the pioneering music of Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli, a form of jazz now known as "Gypsy Jazz." Featuring traditional jazz standards as well as unforgettable original compositions by Reinhardt and Grappelli, the music evokes the verve and romance of pre-war Europe, particularly the jazz cafés of Paris. *The Topsy Gypsy Trio* also incorporates modern and Latin-inspired Gypsy Jazz compositions giving the group's repertoire versatility and a contemporary feel. The pulsing rhythms and beautiful melodies make this music irresistible.

The History

Since their 2006 debut *The Topsy Gypsy Trio* has continued to dazzle audiences around the San Francisco Bay Area with their "Hot Jazz." In March of 2008, *The Topsy Gypsy Trio* made history after adding acoustic bass to their lineup becoming the first trio to have four members.

The Album

With the help and talent of recording engineers Michael Orsow and Violeta Latorre, *The Topsy Gypsy Trio* released their debut self-titled album in October of 2007.

The Venues

The Topsy Gypsy Trio regularly performs at Bay Area restaurants, private events, and as the house band at Le Charm Bistro.

Past venues include:

Enrico's

142 Throckmorton Theatre

Redwood Coast Whale & Jazz Festival

Guaymas Restaurant

Sausalito Art Walk

Forbes Island

Le Charm Bistro

Harris' Restaurant

Slide Ranch

House of Shields

Il Piccolo Caffè

Audubon Canyon Ranch

The Buzz

Here is what people have been saying about The Topsy Gypsy Trio:

"Having [*The Topsy Gypsy Trio*] play our reception was one of the highlights of the day... Everyone LOVED their music. To be honest, we were planning on doing without music, knowing we'd never find a band that we'd love. Hearing them play at Enrico's was a revelation—it was exactly what we didn't know we wanted—and we're still so thrilled they were able to play for our celebration."

—Jennifer Russell

"*The Topsy Gypsy Trio* really made my party special. One of my guests said it was "the" party of the summer and I think it was partially due to Troy and his fellow gypsies. The music was just right, lively but not intrusive. I would definitely use them again."

—Joanne Devore

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The Press

The *Tipsy Gypsy Trio* was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle's "Bandwidth" column on Thursday August 21, 2008.



Trevel Beshore (from left), Troy Hanson and Matej Seda are the original members of the *Tipsy Gypsy Trio*. The group maintained its name after adding a fourth member.

BANDWIDTH

:: Topsy Gypsy Trio :: This San Francisco gypsy jazz trio has a confession to make. "We're the first trio in history that actually has four members," says Troy Hanson, one of the two Django Reinhardt-style guitarists (along with Trevel Beshore) who originally accompanied the band's founder, Czech violinist Matej Seda. Last year, the trio played several steady gigs at jazz-friendly restaurants like Enrico's in North Beach and il Piccolo in Sausalito. The "trio" recently added Myron Grossman on bass to experiment with filling out the sound. But the stand-up bassist added so much to the music that the Topsy Gypsy Trio became a bit of a math problem. "By then we already had a self-titled CD out, with a Web site, business cards and all that," says Hanson. "It is a little dilemma, but we're sticking to the trio name." It's just as well; the band's blend of American jazz from the era of Django fans playing Eastern European folk tunes is a difficult genre to pinpoint. These days, they can be heard every Thursday night at Le Charm on 5th Street, where they've been performing since November. "We love it there," Hanson says. "And we'll keep playing Le Charm as long as they keep feeding us."

Lineup: Matej Seda, violin; Trevel Beshore, guitar; Troy Hanson, guitar; Myron Grossman, stand-up bass.

1. Topsy Gypsy Trio's music should be filed between:

Django Reinhardt and Bireli Lagrene.

2. The soundtrack to what movie would Topsy Gypsy Trio's music best match?

"Ratatouille," or anything by Woody Allen.

3. If Topsy Gypsy Trio could collaborate on a song with any person, living or dead, who would that be?

Django! Preferably living.

4. If a junior high school asked Topsy Gypsy Trio to play a cover song at the next talent show, what song would you choose?

"Bossa Dorado," by Dorado Schmitt at Mill Valley Middle School.

5. What is the meaning of life?

It don't mean a thing ... if it ain't got that swing.

To be featured in Bay Area Bandwidth, you must have a confirmed gig coming up and a recording that readers can buy, download or listen to via a Web link. Then e-mail us at bandwidth@sfchronicle.com with: band or artist name, gig info, Web site and/or MySpace link, and a one-paragraph bio that includes your lineup, city location, description of your sound and a link to your two best songs. Do not e-mail music files or other attachments.

Check them out: www.tipsygypsytrio.com

Next gig: 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. every Thursday. No cover. All ages. Le Charm, 315 5th St., S.F. (415) 546-6128. www.lecharm.com

— Delfin Vigil, bandwidth@sfchronicle.com

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The Players

The Topsy Gypsy Trio is:

Benito Cortez {violin}

Long time Bay Area violinist Benito Cortez has a violin style influenced by his experiences in a wide variety of musical settings including Portuguese 'fado' bands, progressive rock bands, classical orchestra and chamber music, big bands, jazz ensembles, and charanga bands. After years of classical playing and dabbling in other styles of music, Benito switched to jazz violin. He recently recorded with the Ramana Vieira Ensemble, and also performs with the Golden Gate Hot Club and Panique.

Trevel Beshore {guitar}

Trevel has been playing guitar for over 19 years in a variety of musical genres and ensembles. While studying jazz at San Francisco State University, Trevel had the honor of learning from such musical talents as Dee Spencer, Wayne Wallace, Jim Witzel, Francis Wong, and Ron Caltabiano. Performing and recording for years with many songwriters, jazz artists, and his own original collaborations, Trevel is currently committed to the study and performance of Gypsy Jazz.

Troy Hanson {guitar}

Troy has performed in and around the Bay Area with a variety of swing and gypsy jazz bands. He studied the music of Django Reinhardt with the great gypsy jazz artist Alphonso Ponticelli at the Old Town School of Music in Chicago.

Vic Wong {acoustic bass}

Having performed with numerous groups in the bay area including the Very Hot Club, Anouman, Gaucho, the Gypsy Kidz, Melody Parker, Duo Gadjo, Satori, Hot Club of Marin, Tin Cup Serenade, and the Strange Manor Family Band, Vic brings a musically diverse and mature presence to all of his projects. As a highly accomplished acoustic bass player and guitarist alike, Vic regularly performs throughout the Bay Area with Johnny Bones Palace of Jazz, Emily Anne and the Hot Nuts, Regina Pontillo, Trio Panique, and the Soul Captives.