

Two Guitars and Hot Club Music of Paris

Pearl Django is a band without a drummer. It's up to the two guitars to provide the rhythm. And there is infectious rhythm in this high energy quintet whose mission is to incorporate the music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli with American swing music. Pearl Django is one of the most highly regarded hot club style groups working today.

Django Reinhardt was a gypsy guitarist and a genius inspired by American jazz. When he and violinist Stephane Grappelli began swinging with their quintet at the Paris hot clubs in the 30's, a new epoch in music was born. Their band, Quintette du Hot Club de France is considered by jazz historians to be the greatest European jazz band. They started as an informal jam session in Paris in 1933 playing together in the backroom between dance band sets, and soon were the most exciting band in Paris.

That music is the inspiration and joy of this popular Seattle based band. Pearl Django was formed in 1994 in Tacoma, Washington, and eleven cd's later, they're still having fun. Current members are **Troy Chapman**, Guitar; **Ryan Hoffman**, Guitar; **David Lange**, Accordion; **Michael Gray**, Violin; **Rick Leppanen**, Bass.

Pearl Django received national attention after an interview of NPR's "All Things Considered" in 2001. In June 2002, Pearl Django played at the prestigious Festival Django Reinhardt in Samois sur Seine, just outside of Paris, France.

They've performed at Jazz Alley in Seattle and throughout the United States, in Canada, France and Iceland. After their appearance in Bigfork, they will be appearing at the Sun Valley Jazz Jamboree in Sun Valley, Idaho. Other festivals they have performed at include Capital City Jazz Festival, Madison, Wisconsin; Sweet and Hot Festival, Los Angeles, California; Great Connecticut Jazz Festival, Guilford, Connecticut; Mission Folk Festival, Mission B.C.; Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle, Washington.

"If Paris is the city of love, then Pearl Django's music is the flirtatious accompaniment." --6Moons.com

"Pearl Django: The gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt done to perfection!" -- Seattle Times

Pearl Django performed to sell out crowds at the KM Theater in Kalispell and the Whitefish Lake Golf Club Restaurant in April, 2011 at two events also sponsored by Don "K" Subaru. October 15th they will be at the Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts lovingly referred to for the evening as Hot Club de Bigforke.

Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts, 526 Electric Avenue, Bigfork, Tuesday, October 15th 7:30pm. All seats \$25.

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