

POSTCARDS FROM GYPSYLAND

來自吉卜賽的明信片



"...There aren't enough superlatives to describe their sound..."

- All About Jazz

PHOTO CREDIT: LENNY GONZALEZ

THE HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO

三藩市火辣俱樂部

12 SEP 2019

Thursday 8pm

Jockey Club Hall,
Asia Society Hong Kong Centre
亞洲協會香港中心賽馬會廳

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WITH LOVE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Happy Birthday
Fiona



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to Premiere Performances' very first jazz concert featuring gypsy jazz ensemble the Hot Club of San Francisco. We are so thrilled to be presenting this unique all-strings form of jazz in our first foray into the genre – which we hope will be the first of many!



Our Recital Series will open on 28th October with Nevermind Baroque Ensemble at Hong Kong City Hall. The 2019/20 season includes a dynamic range of top soloists, chamber ensembles and orchestras featuring a diverse range of repertoire – there's definitely something for everyone! See www.pphk.org for more details and to book your tickets.

We are delighted to be working again with the Asia Society Hong Kong Center as our Co-Presenter tonight. I would also like to thank our sponsors, Fiona & Ralph Steffensen for supporting this concert on the occasion of a very special birthday, and Ivan Strunin and Deloitte for bringing this ensemble to my attention and helping bring them to Hong Kong.

I would also like to thank the Hong Kong Government for supporting us through the Arts Development Matching Grants Scheme, where every dollar we are able to raise from individuals and corporate sponsors is matched 150% by the Home Affairs Bureau.

Enjoy the music!

Andrea D Fessler
Executive Director & Founder
Premiere Performances of Hong Kong

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PROGRAMME

POSTCARDS FROM GYPSYLAND

The Hot Club of San Francisco (“HCSF”) plays the gypsy jazz music of guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli and the original Hot Club de France. Tonight’s programme features original works by Reinhardt and Grappelli, and incorporates new compositions by guitarist Paul Mehling and violinist Evan Price. Other composers including Claude Debussy and “Jelly Roll” Morton will also make appearances. An evening with the HCSF offers a night of unforgettable music.

The concert will be approximately one hour with no interval.

ABOUT THE HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO



Paul Mehling (Leader, Guitar)
Evan Price (Violin)
Isabelle Fontaine (Vocals, Guitar)
Jordan Samuels (Guitar)
Sam Rocha (Bass)

Formed in 1990, this ensemble of accomplished and versatile musicians celebrates the music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli’s pioneering Quintette du Hot Club de France. This unique jazz form recalls Paris in the 1930s and offers a swinging beat with a sweet melody.

The HCSF borrows the instrumentation of violin, bass, and guitars from the original Hot Club while breathing new life into the music with innovative arrangements of classic tunes and original compositions from the group’s superb lead guitarist, Paul Mehling. Featuring two-time Grammy award-winning violinist Evan Price, the velvet vocals of Isabelle Fontaine, and a swinging rhythm section, the group never fails to surprise and delight.

In 2000, the HCSF was the first American band invited to play the Festival de Jazz Django Reinhardt in Samois-Sur-Seine, home of the current Django revival. The HCSF has celebrated the diversity of gypsy jazz through its 14 acclaimed albums. *Acoustic Guitar* has hailed the group’s playing as “intricate, scorching and often brilliant.” With frequent national and international tours—from Iceland to Lincoln Center and the Monterey Jazz Festival—the HCSF keeps this historic music fresh and alive. The current edition of the HCSF has been together for five years.

www.hotclubsf.com

PERFORMERS

PAUL MEHLING (Leader, Guitar)



Dubbed “the godfather of American gypsy jazz”, Paul Mehling is the leader of the HCSF. His ventures into gypsy jazz began in grammar school, when he discovered Django Reinhardt’s music.

In 1981, Mehling saw Belgian gypsy jazz band Waso perform in Holland. Inspired by their improvisations, he learned to play gypsy guitar. In 1983, Mehling met guitarist Serge Krief while busking in Paris. Krief showed Mehling the sensual, mysterious, romantic, emotional spirit of gypsy music; that spirit is still with Mehling.

Upon returning to America, Mehling spent five years performing with Dan Hicks & The Acoustic Warriors. A few years later, Mehling moved to San Francisco. The HCSF was formed in 1990, with critics noting the blend of 52nd street and gypsy jazz influences in their music.

EVAN PRICE (Violin)



Evan Price is steadily becoming one of his generation’s most respected jazz violinists. Hailing from Detroit, Price’s musical background includes a star-studded list of collaborations with fiddle masters such as Stephane Grappelli and Vassar Clements, as well as rock and pop icons from Stevie Wonder to Led Zeppelin.

Before joining the HCSF, Price was a veteran member of the famed paradigm-shifting Turtle Island Quartet, with whom Price recorded two GRAMMY®-winning CDs during his ten-year tenure.

An accomplished composer, Price has also produced compositions and arrangements for ensembles including the HCSF, Turtle Island Quartet, Orchestra Nashville, and the San Francisco Girls’ Chorus. Price has been a member of the HCSF since 1998. He lives in Mill Valley, CA, with his wife and daughter.



ISABELLE FONTAINE (Vocals, Guitar)



Born and raised in the French countryside, Isabelle Fontaine grew up to the voices of Edith Piaf and Charles Trenet. Her musical talent was immediately recognised when she started singing with a group of friends for fun. Afterwards, Fontaine spent 20 years singing and playing the snare drum to the jumping jive music of the 1950's.

During this period, Fontaine developed an unconditional love for the Ladies and the Dukes of the Big Band Era, before becoming drawn to the gypsy swing of the Hot Club of France. Soon after, she picked up the guitar and infused her playing with an impeccable sense of rhythm.

In 2004, Fontaine moved to the Bay Area with her family. Since then, she has become highly sought after as both a vocalist and as a rhythm guitar player.

JORDAN SAMUELS (Guitar)



Jordan Samuels is an accomplished guitarist who has been studying, performing and teaching throughout the San Francisco Bay Area for the last 20 years. During his time at San Francisco State University, Samuels completed his formal training in music composition under the guidance of Ronald Caltabiano and Richard Festinger; at the same time, he was also pursuing a jazz studies curriculum, directed by Andrew Speight and John Calloway.

Since completing his studies in 2010, Samuels has become an in-demand jazz guitarist. He performs regularly with the HCSF, Erik Jekabson's Electric Squeezebox Orchestra, and his own trio, Certified Organic.

SAM ROCHA (Bass)



A Fresno, California native, Sam Rocha showed an interest in music from an early age. At 15, he fell in love with the acoustic string bass and has since identified himself as a bassist. At 17, Rocha played his first professional gigs with Fresno's Blue Street Jazz Band. While largely self-taught on the string bass, Rocha has closely studied the masters of his instrument, from 'Pops' Foster to Scott LaFaro. In addition, Rocha has also absorbed the nuances of classic jazz tuba, cornet, and guitar playing, instruments on which he gives regular performances. One of the rising stars of the traditional jazz and gypsy swing circuit, Rocha is known for

his innate musicality and rhythm, as well as for his inventive, melodic solos. While on tour, Sam plays a Chadwick Folding Bass with a hybrid set of gut and steel strings.

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ABOUT PREMIERE PERFORMANCES OF HONG KONG

Premiere Performances brings internationally celebrated musicians and the world's brightest rising stars to Hong Kong for solo recitals, chamber music and community outreach, building a vibrant local arts scene and inspiring audience members of all ages with performances that are accessible to all.

Founded in 2007 as a registered charity by Andrea D. Fessler, Premiere Performances aims to contribute to a vibrant local classical music scene and establish Hong Kong as a leader in the international cultural landscape. From international favourites to the world's brightest rising stars, our programmes feature a dynamic array of instruments, performance styles and genres.

Premiere Performances presents almost 100 events each year including:

- **Beare's Premiere music Festival (formerly The Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival)**
- **Recital Series (4-6 concerts per year)**
- **Family Series (3-4 concerts per year)**
- **Chamber Music In Schools (50+ in-school performances per year)**

From special needs students to the elite of Hong Kong, we have programmes aimed at all demographics of Hong Kong society. We believe that everybody, regardless of social class, ethnicity or language, will be moved by the power of a world class live music performance.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Premiere Performances is a registered charity and a non-profit organisation. Only about 15% of Premiere Performances' costs are covered by ticket sales. The generous contributions of our patrons and sponsors help us make up the shortfall so that we can continue to bring the best in the world to Hong Kong for you.

As we are a recipient of the Art Development Matching Grants Scheme, every dollar you donate to Premiere Performances will be matched 150% by the Hong Kong Government, more than doubling your contribution.

As a registered charity, any donation of **HK\$100** or more is tax-deductible with receipt.

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