

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

GYPSIES ARE INVADING THE SEACOAST!

The second annual "Django By The Sea" Gypsy Jazz Festival will take place Friday, October 7 thru Sunday, October 9 at The Dance Hall in Kittery, ME.

Celebrating the music of guitar legend Django Reinhardt, Django By The Sea is the premiere Gypsy Jazz festival in New England, featuring internationally renowned musicians in a truly intimate setting. Among this year's performers are multiple Grammy® winner John Jorgenson and the hottest new gypsy jazz band in the land, Rhythm Future Quartet.

Gypsy Jazz is a unique blend of Eastern European melodies, Parisian Musette, Spanish Flamenco and American Swing that was created and perfected by guitarist Django Reinhardt, violinist Stephane Grapelli and their fellow Gypsy musicians in the cafés of Paris during the 1930s and 1940s. Today, Gypsy Jazz is one of the most distinctive and widely enjoyed jazz hybrids on the music scene, spawning popular Django Festivals around the globe, including Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, New York City, and now Kittery.

The festival kicks off with a free, meet-and-greet Welcome Party on Thursday, October 6, from 7:00–10:00pm at Book & Bar in Portsmouth. Performing at the Welcome Party will be Mes Amis, featuring Maine-based guitarist, vocalist and

composer Steve Lynnworth. Mes Amis plays an infectious mix of Gypsy, Latin and American jazz standards along with Steve's original compositions. Mes Amis' special guest will be 11-year-old guitar phenom, Henry Acker, who must be seen to be believed.

The next evening, the festival moves to Kittery's popular performing arts venue, The Dance Hall. On Friday, October 7 at 7:30pm, the Ivan Peña Quartet is the opening act of the festival. Ivan is an in-demand gypsy guitarist born to Peruvian parents, living in Oklahoma and playing around the world. Following Ivan and his group is John Jorgenson and Friends. One of the preeminent guitarists of our time, John is a multi-GRAMMY® winning musician who has played with the Desert Rose Band, Elton John, Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan and many others.

During the day on Saturday, October 8, several of the festival performers will be offering Master Classes on gypsy jazz, guitar, violin and bass. Details can be found at www.djangobythesea.com.

On Saturday evening at 7:30pm, the festival performances continues with Ultrafaux, an acoustic powerhouse from Baltimore, performing rich, original, gypsy-inspired melodies. Closing out Saturday's performance will be the Rhythm Future Quartet featuring Django By The Sea co-founder and Music Director (and newly-minted seacoast resident), Jason Anick. *Downbeat Magazine* calls Jason

"a rising star in the world of jazz violin." Alongside Jason is Olli Soikkeli, a riveting, young guitarist nicknamed "the Finnish boy wonder," who has played with Bucky Pizzarelli, Tommy Emmanuel, Andrea Öberg and others. Anchoring these two virtuosos as they perform their high-wire act are the twin towers of bassist/composer Greg Loughman and Saga Award-winning, 21-year-old guitarist Max O'Rourke.

After the Friday and Saturday nights' performances, there will be post-show "Djam" sessions at the nearby Buoy Art Gallery, next to Black Birch restaurant. The festival concludes at The Dance Hall on Sunday, October 9 at 7:00pm with an All-Star "Djam" Session and Swing Dance led by The Hadacol Bouncers.

Tickets for Friday's and Saturday's performances at The Dance Hall are \$25 in advance/\$30 at the door for a single night. Sunday's Dance Party is \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door. You can also purchase a 2-night pass for \$40 or a 3-night pass for \$55. A limited number of \$100 VIP passes are available, which include brunch with the artists on Sunday and a donation to The Dance Hall (a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization).

For tickets, call 207.703.2083 or visit TheDanceHallKittery.org. The festival is sponsored in part by Bavarian Autosport, Kennebunk Savings bank, York Hospital and White Heron Tea & Coffee Community.