

The Swing Thieves - Artists Biography

After a successful experience with the Bostonian Gypsy Jazz Band “The Chicken Thieves” created by Julien Machet in 2008, Fabien Aubry created this year his own Gypsy Band “The Swing Thieves”, in homage to the beloved Chicken Thieves. Mixing of course the music of Django Reinhardt as well as French pop songs and other jazz and latin standards, this band is composed by energetic members from various horizons.



On vocal, coming straight from the Caribbean island of St Martin, Moana Avvenuti is full of exotic grooves blended with pop flavors. She graduated from her science major in high school with the highest grades of both St Martin and St Barths. After performing for years, starting at her music school’s shows and then in her father’s bands when she was 17, the young singer developed an addiction for performance, which led her to sing in all styles and settings from cabaret shows to concerts in bars and restaurants. Later, Moana moved to Boston to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music as a vocalist, where she was awarded generous scholarships and awards.



On lead guitar, born and raised in Madison WI, Boston's premiere jazz Manouche guitarist Jack Soref has been heard on radio and at festivals all over the country. Jack graduated from the prestigious Berklee College of Music, where he received his Bachelor’s degree in 2007 in a Jazz Composition major. He has performed with such Gypsy Jazz luminaries as Gonzalo Bergara, Violinist Tim Kliphuis and the great German Sinto musician Titi Bamberger. For half of 2011, Jack studied the music of Django Reinhardt at its source by moving to Paris, France. While there he jammed with the old masters like Boulou Ferré and Romanian violin maestro Florin Niculescu as well as the young virtuoso’s currently storming the Paris scene.



On violin, Nick Norman was born in DeLand, Florida. He began his study of Classical Violin at the age of 7 years and performed in the Stetson University symphony orchestra starting at age 10. He continued studying and performing an eclectic variety of styles encompassing Rock, Country, Blues, Jazz, Funk, Bluegrass, Fusion and now Gypsy Jazz. Nick majored in jazz at University of Miami, studying jazz theory, composition and performance. He has performed and recorded in many settings, from the Miami jazz faculty to regular performance with jazz master Ira Sullivan, to jazz clubs of Atlantic City and many locations around New England. At present, Nick is very active in the Boston Gypsy Jazz scene.



On bass, Alexander Trampas was born in Athens, Greece where he studied electric and upright bass, piano, Classical theory, Jazz harmony, and Jazz improvisation. During his career as a bass player he has appeared on stage with musicians like Larry Monroe, Greg Badolato, Greg Hopkins, Ron Savage, Mario Frangoulis, and Eriko Daimo, among others. In 2005 he received several scholarships to study at Berklee College of Music and in 2011 he graduated with a quadruple degree majoring in: Jazz Composition, Performance, Film Scoring and Classical Composition.



On rhythm guitar, Fabien Aubry was born in Geneva, Switzerland where he started to learn music at eight years old with classical piano lessons. Fabien decided to pursue music as a career and applied to a professional music school in Geneva on guitar while he continued piano lessons with jazz teachers. In 2007, he decided to continue his musical studies at Berklee College of music and graduated in Contemporary Writing and Production in 2009. He studied arrangement, orchestration and production and enrolled as well in film scoring classes, video game music writing and orchestral mockups. At Berklee, Fabien won two awards and played at the Berklee Performance Center for the CWP Student Concert in March 2009, and for the Writing Division Awards Concert in April 2009. In 2010, he arranged two orchestral pieces for the American Latin-jazz Grammy awarded artist Poncho Sanchez.