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## The Hot Club Of Detroit

By [Nick Catalano](#)



It has been more than seven decades since Django Reinhardt and the Quintette du Hot Club produced the original “gypsy jazz” music that wowed audiences on three continents. Today there are combos called “Hot Clubs” in many places like Tokyo, San Francisco, Seattle, Sweden, Norway and Austria. In America, this popular tradition is presently best represented by a remarkable group dubbed the Hot Club Of Detroit. Led by fast-fingered Reinhardt disciple Evan Perri, the group includes accordionist Julien Labro, a native of Marseilles, soprano and tenor saxophonist Carl Cafagna, rhythm guitarist Paul Brady and bassist Shannon Wade. This music evolved from the French musette sounds of yore and the present CD “Night Town” of the neo-Reinhardt Detroiters incorporates related styles such as New Orleans jazz, Bluegrass, Eastern European, Carribean beguine, Brazilian choro and samba. Despite the variegated sounds, the Hot Club Of Detroit has an infectious cohesion in this follow-up to the group's 2006 debut CD. The selections include “Speevy” and “Melodie au Crepuscule” (both Reinhardt tunes), the ancient French ditties “J'Attendrai” and “Valse a Rosenthal,” Maurice Ravel's “Tzigane, tunes by Jelly Roll Morton plus several originals by Perri and Labro.

The contributions to jazz and other American musics from these French underpinnings cannot be overestimated. Not only is *Night Town* delightfully nostalgic but it might become required listening for ethnomusicologists.

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