



The Hot Club of Detroit is all acoustic, uses no percussion, dusts off 50- to 80-year-old tunes and features an accordion as one of its lead instruments. That kind of setup usually equals corny, Lawrence Welk-style music, but not for this aptly named quintet led by guitarist Evan Perri. He and his boys swing through a set of dance-inducing, finger-shakin' jazz that sounds so cool, it's positively up to date.

The group - a champion of the Gypsy-jazz perfected by guitarist Django Reinhardt and violinist Stephane Grappelli - showcases spirited, air-tight ensemble playing underpinned by Julien Labro's grooving accordion rhythms and leads. Perri dazzles with his crisp, lightning-fingered technique, dueling and harmonizing with Labro and saxophonist Carl Cafagna while guitarist Paul Brady and upright bassist Shannon Wade keep the rhythm foundations strong and supple.

On "Night Town," the Hot Club takes the listener out for a round of Big Apple boppin', European tea dances, hot evenings in Paris and sultry swinging in New Orleans.

- *Eric Feber, The Pilot*

The Hot Club: "Night Town"

Rating: Go get it now

Tracks to download: "Seven Steps to Heaven," "Coquette," "Melodie au Crepuscule"