

Clouzine

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ELECTRONIC EXPERIMENTAL WORLD INDEPENDENT

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WHITNEY TÀI

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SALLEE



THE VIGNATIS



VARGEN



FONZI TRANTOMANO

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THE VIGNATIS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MIX THE PASSION FOR ROCKABILLY AND GYPSY MUSIC WITH THE LOVE FOR JAZZ AND COUNTRY MUSIC ALONG WITH THE CRUSADE TO PUSH BOUNDARIES? YOU GET A WHOLE NEW GENRE CALLED "GYPSYBILLY". THE VIGNATIS HAVE BEEN ROCKIN' THEIR GYPSYBILLY STYLE FOR 4 ALBUMS. THE AURALLY AND VISUALLY COLORFUL LOS ANGELES-BASED GROUP'S DYNAMIC PERFORMANCES CHARTER AUDIENCES ON A JOURNEY FROM NOSTALGIC TIMES TO THE UNKNOWN FUTURE. THEY INNOVATIVELY FUSE AMERICAN/EUROPEAN TRADITIONS, MUSICIANSHIP, AND A SENSE OF HUMOR CLEVERLY EXPRESSED IN THEIR SONGS. "...THE VIGNATIS DELIVER FABULOUS VOCALS ON GREAT TUNES," SAYS MUSIC CONNECTION MAGAZINE. THEIR UNMISTAKABLE, NEO-NOSTALGIC SOUND IS A NATURAL MUSICAL UNION SO DIVERSE IT AVOIDS STRICT CATEGORIZATION. THEIR JULY 2020 ALBUM RELEASE ENTITLED "Red, White & Blue - Gypsybilly Vol. 4" IS THE 4TH CHAPTER OF THEIR AMERICAN/EUROPEAN FUSION OF CULTURES COMBINING AN INNOVATIVE, FRESH APPROACH WITH A SOLID RHYTHM SECTION AND EVEN SOME BEATS, VOCALS, GUITAR, AND CLARINET. THE OVERALL SOUND IS SEASONED BY OTHER DISTINCTIVE INSTRUMENTS THAT PAINT A MUSICAL PICTURE LEAVING AUDIENCES SINGING ALONG, TAPPING TOES, OR JUMPING TO THEIR FEET. THE LYRICS CONSIST OF TOPICS FROM CULTURE, GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, TO OVERCOMING PERSONAL STRUGGLES. AS PRESTIGIOUS VOTING MEMBERS OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY AND GRAMMY AWARDS, THE VIGNATIS HAVE PERFORMED AT MANY ESTEEMED EVENTS AND VENUES INCLUDING THE GRAMMY MUSEUM, EMMY AWARDS PARTIES, AND AS THE OPENING FOR VARIOUS RENOWNED BANDS ON ELITE STAGES. MUSIC IS THEIR LIFESTYLE. THEIR GOAL IS TO SHARE GYPSYBILLY WITH THE WORLD BY PASSING ON TO OTHERS THE SAME JOY THEY RECEIVE IN CREATING IT. WHETHER PAYING HOMAGE TO THEIR GREAT MUSICAL INFLUENCES OR EXPLORING UNCHARTED WATERS, THE VIGNATIS CONTINUE TO BLEND THE OLD CONTINENT, EUROPE WITH THE NEW CONTINENT, AMERICA, FROM STUDIO TO STAGE.



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YOUR RELEASES, COLLABS OF IMPORTANCE

OUR NEW RELEASE, "Red, White & Blue - Gypsybilly Vol. 4" IS A 10-SONG EXTENSION OF US, ALMOST LIKE ADDITIONAL LIMBS. IT IS AN UP-SPRIT, SUMMERTIME FEEL WITH A PATRIOTIC THEME HONORING OUR "SILENT HEROES", NOSTALGIA, AND THE FUTURE. WE ARE CARRYING ON TO SOLIDIFY OUR GYPSYBILLY SO THAT ONE DAY IT BECOMES A HOUSEHOLD NAME. MUSIC EVOLVES AND CHANGES BY INNOVATION, RISK TAKING, NOT FOLLOWING TRENDS, AND BEING FEARLESS OF WHAT OTHERS THINK. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPEAKING BRIEFLY WITH QUINCY JONES AT A GRAMMY EVENT AND ASKED HIM WHERE HE THOUGHT MUSIC WAS HEADED. HE SAID THAT BOUNDARIES AND BARRIERS WERE GOING TO COME DOWN AND A LOT OF GENRE CROSSING WAS IN THE FUTURE. THAT WAS ALL THE CONFIRMATION WE NEEDED. ABOUT 12 MONTHS LATER, WE RELEASED OUR FIRST ALBUM, "BIRTH OF THE GYPSYBILLY", THE NEW-BORN. SINCE THEN WE HAVE RELEASED "BIRTH OF THE GYPSYBILLY VOL. 2", THE TODDLER, "LET'S HIT THE ROAD GYPSYBILLY VOL. 3, THE TWEEN, AND OUR NEWEST, "Red, White & Blue Gypsybilly Vol. 4", THE TEENAGER. THE MOST IMPORTANT COLLABORATION IS THE TWO OF US IN BOTH PERFORMING AND WRITING. COLLECTIVELY, WE HASH OUT HOW WE ARE GOING TO ARRANGE AND PRODUCE A SONG. WE HAVE EVEN RECORDED, BUT NOT YET RELEASED, GYPSYBILLY CHRISTMAS STANDARDS, AND SOME COVERS OF STEVIE WONDER, NIRVANA, THE BEATLES, AND DJANGO REINHARDT, TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SOME OF THE GREATS, EVEN JIMI HENDRIX. YES, HENDRIX GONE GYPSYBILLY!

YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

NEITHER ONE OF US CAN SEEM TO STOP WRITING AND WE HAVE A RULE...NO IDEA GETS DISCOUNTED. EVERY IDEA IS EXPLORED AND FINISHED. THEY MAY NOT ALL BE GOOD, BUT THAT IS NOT FOR US TO DECIDE. WE WRITE IT AND RECORD IT IN WHATEVER GENRE DEVELOPS. SOMETIMES WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING BUT WE JUST GO. WE ARE BOTH COMMENCEMENT TO COMPLETION, TYPE-A PEOPLE SO IF WE START SOMETHING, WE FINISH IT. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER IT IS WRITING A SONG, PRACTICING, A GROCERY LIST, OR A BOARD GAME. IT GETS FINISHED. FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING OUR CATALOG AND HAVE RECORDED 134 SONGS IN A LL KINDS OF STYLES FROM OUR OWN GYPSYBILLY, TO JAZZ, FOLK, ROCK, COUNTRY, ALT. COUNTRY, PUNK, GYPSY JAZZ, FUNK, FRENCH WALTZ, 1960S, ETC...YOU GET THE IDEA. THESE ARE FOR LICENSING PURPOSES AND POTENTIALLY FOR OTHERS TO RECORD, NOT JUST US, WELL, MAYBE A FEW FOR US? SINCE OUR ANNUAL SHOWS IN EUROPE GOT CANCELLED THIS YEAR AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN PERFORMING DURING THIS PANDEMIC, WE HAVE HAD TO FOCUS ON WRITING, RECORDING AND, DEFINITELY THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO DO FOR OUR NEXT GYPSYBILLY ALBUM. HOWEVER, IT SURE WOULD BE GREAT TO HIT THE STAGE SOON. NOTHING REPLACES THAT FEELING.

WHAT IS UNIQUE IN YOUR MUSIC?

FIRST, IT IS THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE TWO OF US AND OUR RESPECTIVE BACKGROUNDS AS A FRANCO-AMERICAN DUO, BOTH MUSICALLY AND CULTURALLY. WE SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME CRAFTING THE CROSS-POLLINATION OF OUR FOUR-STYLE COMPONENTS CONTAINED IN GYPSYBILLY, WHICH ARE GYPSY JAZZ (A LA DJANGO REINHARDT), ROCKABILLY, COUNTRY AND JAZZ. HOT ROD LICKS AND GYPSY LICKS ARE IMPLEMENTED BY THE ELECTRIC GUITAR, THE TYPICAL GYPSY JAZZ "LA POMPE" RHYTHM GUITAR ON BEATS 2 AND 4 IS SOMETIMES TURNED ON ITS SIDE IN 8-16 BAR PHRASES BY EMPHASIZING BEATS 1 AND 3 WHICH WE CALL "LA POMPE RENVERSEE". WE LIKE TO UTILIZE THE MAJOR AND MINOR 6THS AS OPPOSED TO THE STANDARD MAJOR AND MINOR CHORDS AND FROM TIME TO TIME, THROW IN A METER CHANGE FOR A BAR FOR KICKS AND CIGGLES. WHY NOT, RIGHT? NOT ALL SONGS ON ALL OF OUR ALBUMS ARE PURE GYPSYBILLY. ONE COMPONENT MAY BE MORE DOMINANT THAN ANOTHER. WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED BEATS ON A COUPLE OF TRACKS CREATING A SOUND WE CALL ELECTROBILLY, WHICH YOU CAN HEAR IN TWO OF THE SONGS ON OUR NEW ALBUM, "NEW DIRECTION" AND "THIRD EYE". WHAT REMAINS CONSTANT IS OUR SIGNATURE MELANGE THAT IS EFFECTIVE, PLAYFUL ALSO IN ITS LYRICS AND DEFINITELY CHALLENGING TO CLASSIFY. HONESTLY, WHO ELSE PLAYS A PINK CLARINET AND RUNS IT THROUGH GUITAR EFFECTS? PLEASE READ THE ETHNOMUSICOLOGICAL EXPLANATION ON OUR WEBSITE [HTTPS://WWW.THEVIGNATIS.COM/WHAT-IS-GYPSYBILLY](https://www.thevignatis.com/what-is-gypsybilly) TO DIG A BIT DEEPER.

YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC INDUSTRY... YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT CLOUZINE MAGAZINE

WE THANK THE UNIVERSE EVERY DAY FOR TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES LIKE LOGIC PRO X, WHICH HAS ENABLED US TO BECOME AUTONOMOUS. WE SPENT 2012-2016 LEARNING ALL KINDS OF SOFTWARE DELAYING A THIRD ALBUM RELEASE UNTIL 2018. THIS WAS ALL TRAINING AND USEFUL FACING THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE MUSIC BUSINESS WITH THIS SOCIAL DISTANCING WE ARE LIVING. "BEDROOM" RECORDINGS HAVE BEEN GOING ON A LOT LONGER THAN JUST A YEAR AGO, WITHOUT ACOLADES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL MAKE CAUSES TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND LEARN TO WEAR THE DIFFERENT HATS OF PRODUCER, ARRANGER AND SELF-TEACHER FOR SELF-DEVELOPMENT. ALL CAUSES HAVE EFFECTS. THIS HAS PUSHED US TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT STANDS OUT FROM THE MASSES. HISTORICALLY, IT SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED REALLY WELL (EX., PINK FLOYD, PRINCE, JIMI HENDRIX, FRANK ZAPPA). TECHNOLOGY ALSO ALLOWS THE INDIE ARTIST TO BE HEARD WORLDWIDE. IN SOME CAPACITY, ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS FROM BLOGS, SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS, YOUTUBE, STREAMING SERVICES AND ONLINE MAGAZINES LIKE THE UNEQUALLED, CORROBORATIVE AND DEMONSTRATIVE CLOUZINE, SUPPORTING THE UNDER-REPRESENTED, UNDERDOG INDIE ARTIST. A RARE FIND. THANK YOU, CLOUZINE!