

# Cambridge Jazz Festival Press Release

## Hot Club Jazz Comes to Cambridge

Cambridge Jazz Festival celebrates the music of Django Reinhardt and the Quintet of the Hot Club of France with an event headlined by international stars Robin Nolan Trio.

The day-long programme runs on November 25 2017 and consists of:

- A guitar workshop led by Robin Nolan, teaching the secrets of gypsy jazz (10:30 to 13:00 Music Recital Room, Anglia Ruskin University)
- A swing dancing class led by Cambridge Lindyhoppers (14:00 to 15:30 St Columba's Church Hall)
- A panel talk on "Django Reinhardt's Musical Legacy" featuring Robin Nolan and experts on the subject (15:45 to 16:15 St Andrew's Baptist Church)
- A concert featuring local band Django's Tiger supporting Robin Nolan Trio (16:30 to 19:15 St Andrew's Baptist Church)
- A gypsy jazz jam session afterwards.

**Hot jazz** is a style that first became popular in the 1920s, flourishing in the early jazz era through to the 1950s. Born in Paris, and becoming the popular dance music of its time, the style was epitomised in the work of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli, the stars of the Quintet of the Hot Club of France. Django became the most celebrated guitarist of his time; arguably of all time. Having learned to play the banjo as a child in a musical gypsy family, his talent was recognised by Parisian band leaders whilst in his early teens. What defined his unique style was his recovery from a caravan fire which left him in his late teens with only two functional fingers on his fretting hand. He nonetheless achieved a level of virtuosity which has been rarely matched ever since, and left behind a huge catalogue of compositions and recordings. The music is infectious, full of virtuoso flourish, joy-of-life, stomping dance tunes and reflective ballads.

The Hot Club style became unfashionable in the 1960s and lost except to aficionados in the '70s. But the music had by then been taken to heart by European gypsies who have been keeping it alive as an aural tradition since the death of Django in 1953. The age of the Internet has seen a massive resurgence of interest in the music, and it is now celebrated in music festivals regularly around the world. Most importantly, new music is being created in the style all the time, so although the idiom has roots in the 20s and 30s, it is also genuinely contemporary and celebrated equally in both gypsy and gadjo communities.

**Robin Nolan** is one of the foremost performers in this style, having headlined at every major gypsy jazz festival in the world. He has also built a huge community of interest among guitarists around a vibrant online teaching practice and his magazine Gypsy Jazz Secrets. Most recently, Robin has founded the annual festival Django Amsterdam, and merged his love of AC/DC and Django in a novel album Sin City. The Sin City set has been featured this year at the mecca of gypsy jazz, the annual Django Reinhardt Festival in Fontainebleau. Robin will bring Sin City, along with Beatles tunes, the influence of Ravi Shankar, and plenty of classic gypsy jazz to his performance.

**Django's Tiger** is a Cambridge-based band comprising some of the region's finest jazz musicians. They perform regularly for Cambridge Lindyhoppers' social dances, and have featured on Cambridge 105 and Cambridge TV. Recent festival appearances have included Camp Bestival, Strawberry Fair, PigFest, the Big Weekend, and previous Cambridge Jazz Festivals.

## Links:

<https://www.cambridgejazzfestival.info/>

<https://www.cambridgejazzfestival.info/robin-nolan-guitar-workshop>

<https://www.cambridgejazzfestival.info/robin-nolan-trio>

<https://www.cambridgejazzfestival.info/django-s-tiger>

<https://www.facebook.com/robinnolanguitar/>

<http://robinnolanmusic.com/>

[https://twitter.com/Djangos\\_Tiger](https://twitter.com/Djangos_Tiger)

<https://twitter.com/Robinnolan>

<http://www.djangostiger.co.uk>

<https://djangostiger.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/djangostiger>

<https://djangostiger.bandcamp.com/>

<https://soundcloud.com/damian-glasfurd-brown/sets/douce-ambiance>