

# Concert series gets off to a hot start with Hot Club of Saratoga

PHOTO BY TYREE SUTTON

By: Abigail Nawrot  
Staff Writer

Hot Club of Saratoga, a familiar treat, returned to kick off a series of musical concerts in the Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium on Thursday, Sept. 19.

Coordinator of Cultural Affairs, Maria Zemantauski, introduced the acoustic band as they prepared to start off with a fun song written by their main inspiration, Django Reinhardt.

According to Zemantauski, the upbeat gypsy jazz ensemble was so frequently requested that she's had to decline requests.

The ensemble went acoustic for the event. For the performance, they each took turns improvising solos in the gypsy jazz style.

"This was my first time listening to gypsy jazz, and it was really nice— especially to watch," said Caroline Lydon, an individual studies major. "I loved the singing [and] I definitely wish there was more of it."

The band consists of clarinet player Jonathan Greene, bassist and vocalist Dylan Perrillo, violinist Tucker Callander, rhythm guitarist Chuck Kish and guest lead guitarist Michael Joseph Harris.

Perrillo's singing was featured in a few of the groups' choice songs. Kish and Callander also joined in unison to form a chorus.

As stated by Perillo, it's nice when there's no plugging-in of the instruments that needs to happen.

"Somebody can just come in, sit down [and] start playing," he said. "Sometimes hooking up cables can be a deterrent to play, and this is a very communal type of music."

A concert attendee, who declined to give her name, said she got chills when she heard Perillo sing.

"I really felt like I was being sung to," she said. "Jazz is just so romantic and personal; this is what I came here for."

Hot Club of Saratoga has been



Hot Club of Saratoga bangs out some tunes

around since 2012, and time has done nothing but good things for this tight-knit band's bond.

"To be able to play together, and sit back with this group, to just get into a groove, keep it moving, and swinging, that's a very special thing," Kish said. "Listening to these soloists, hearing them play these amazing things," he continued. "Musically, [gypsy jazz] just hooks you. It's epic, fun music."

Gypsy jazz can be accredited to Romani-French musician Django Reinhardt, who many consider the father of the genre.

"We say 'music saves' figuratively, but for Django, that was literally the case," Kish explained.

Django started playing on the streets and teamed up with Stéphane Grappelli, a violinist. They formed a group and took on the name of their sponsor, "Hot Club."

"What really made the original Hot Club special was that it was a string band," Kish said.

Gypsy jazz is played by an entourage of string instruments. However, Hot Club of Saratoga, evidenced by the presence of

Greene's woodwind instrument, have more instrument diversity.

"Jonathan here stumbled upon us, [Greene] joined us and we just really liked how it turned out," said Kish. "It felt special [and] some purists might argue with us, but we love the sound."

Beyond having a clarinet player, Hot Club of Saratoga has also explored some other musical methods with their "Musician-in-Residence" program.

Following the absence of a lead guitarist, they came up with the idea about a year ago of inviting connections from the gypsy jazz community to temporarily gig with them.

"That's the beauty of these things," Kish said. "When we play, almost everyone out there is smiling, having a good time. It's about sharing."

The Cultural Affairs office has another jazz performance scheduled, this time by Shiri Zorn and George Muscatello. The one-hour event will take place Thursday, Oct. 3, at noon in the Bulmer Telecommunications Center Auditorium.

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Relaxing chello soothes listeners

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most notably the Industrial Revolution.

"Our goal is to help nurture students and to help them grow, which is a parallel with the 'Garden,'" Fracalossi said. "It is Thomas's stated point of doing the artwork in the atrium,"

According to Lotano, the idea of growth within the piece was delivered with its emphasis on movement.

"The 'Garden' has this continuous aspect to it and I think it's because of the way the composition is laid out," she said. "It's totally filled... and has this movement through it."

When Lail set out to create his piece, he wanted to portray Hud-

son Valley Community College as a "Garden" for the student body. As stated by Fracalossi, Lail's piece is about the parallel that plants and students need to be nurtured and given a safe place to grow.

"The image of a plant growing is an ever hopeful image," Fracalossi said.

"There is so much going on with the 'Garden,'" said Lotano. "The idea of blossoming with whatever you do, whether it's knowledge or with art," she continued. "It adds a sense of timeless stability [and] I think that's what Hudson Valley [Community College] is."

Longworth said, "It'll never go out of style."

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Petor Dubok poses next to his white out photography