



Getting Out

Husband
and wife
fill their
acoustic
rock
with

Gypsy Soul



30

Head
for the
basement



20

Groove
to the
beat

Fantasy
football





Wind blows Gypsy Soul into O



Gypsy Soul — husband-and-wife musicians Roman Morykit (left) and Cilette Swann — will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Peery's Egyptian Theater in Ogden.

Couple's acoustic-based rock 'unique,' 'soothing'

By MARK SAAL

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Successfully pinpointing the musical stylings of Gypsy Soul is no easy task. After all, this is a duo that has been compared to everyone from Fleetwood Mac to Sheryl Crow, Keb' Mo' to Loreena McKennett, Bonnie Raitt to Sarah McLachlan.

Not exactly a narrow range of musical artists.

The husband and wife — Cilette Swann on vocals and Roman Morykit on bass and guitar — say they aren't afraid to define their own

how close they can come with that definition. Chatting on a speakerphone recently from their home in Medford, Ore., the two say it's difficult to answer that question.

"Essentially, it's acoustic-based rock," Morykit said. "It definitely has an Americana, rootsy vibe to it, but it also has Celtic elements to it. You know, celtic with a very small 'c' as well. ... It's a very acoustic blend of acoustic rock."

"It's hard to put it in a sentence," Swann added, "but if it were going to be, it's sort of 'acoustic rock with Americana and Celtic influences'."

PREVIEW

- **WHO:** Gypsy Soul
- **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday
- **WHERE:** Peery's Egyptian Theater, 2415 Washington Blvd., Ogden
- **TICKETS:** \$15/adults, \$13/seniors and students, available at the theater box office or at 395-3227

heard others assign all kinds of descriptions to their music, but perhaps their favorite came at a recent concert when a woman told them, "I just love this kind of music."

Seeing an opportunity to finally get their music defined, Swann said to the woman, "Well, OK, explain to me what 'this kind of music' is."

"Well, it's kind of like the wind," she answered. "It's just soothing."

Gypsy Soul's soothing music blows into downtown Ogden for a performance at Peery's Egyptian Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Wandering spirits

Gypsy Soul is more than just a name; it's a description of the myriad cultural influences that have affected the tunes written by Morykit and Swann. The couple met in Scotland in the early 1990s and have lived in five countries over the past dozen years.

"Hence Gypsy Soul," Swann said. "I mean, we've lived in a lot of different places, our background is so diverse. ... We thought Gypsy Soul was so appropriate."

Swann says there's both

— Morykit Swann from they're a generation

"So the feeling Swann says Gypsies, where the feeling can name."

Current outside A and Morykit another n Seattle — touring.

Gypsy seven alb selling m copies in The curre Beautiful CD recor in Grants

Gypsy Soul

From 3

released in June.

Covering their bases

And next month, album No. 8 is due out, a recording of cover songs paying homage to artists and songs that have influenced the two musicians. Tunes on the album include Peter Gabriel's "Don't Give Up," The Beatles' "Blackbird," Rod Stewart's "Sailing," Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" and John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Many are bluegrass versions of the songs, according to Swann. Critically, Gypsy Soul has earned its share of praise. "The Today Show" called the couple's 1995 "Test of Time" album "the best music to fall in love to." Others have called it "gourmet music," "mesmerizing" and "totally unique and captivating."

Although their fan base is steadily growing, Swann and Morykit still haven't been able to make any inroads into radio. Morykit blames a combination of Gypsy Soul's all-over-the-map sound and radio's strange need for sameness.

"I guess the blessing and the curse of the music that we do is that it is very, very eclectic," Morykit said. "You

have a little bit of blues, you have a little bit of roots, you have a bit of Americana, you have the Celtic.

"I mean, it's acoustic rock, but it has a lot of different influences. And with radio being what it is right now, if it's not one specific thing, they're just not interested."

A varied diet

Morykit said what radio doesn't seem to understand is that people don't eat a diet of one specific food — and the same is true of their listening habits.

"The radio thing has always made me smile a little bit," he said. "People don't listen to things in compartmentalized ways. ... You have varied tastes. Most people do."

Gypsy Soul has, however, been able to get its music onto television and in the movies. Swann and Morykit have a publisher in Los Angeles who's done an "incredible" job of getting their music included on a number of TV shows.

"Without sort of tooting our horn, because he's done it all ... we've probably had more uses on TV than many major label acts," Swann said. Their music has appeared on shows such as "Providence," "Felicity" and "Roswell."

Sandy Eborn, a Roy superfan promoting this

weekend's concert in Ogden, says it's difficult to put her finger on just what it is about Gypsy Soul that attracts her. Eborn and her husband first heard the duo's music at a little booth at — of all places — a home show in Sandy.

"Our story is typical of pretty much every fan who ever heard them for the first time," Eborn said. "We first stopped because of the voice. Cletie's voice just stops you in your tracks."

Eborn calls it "adult music."

"Adults can go sit and have an enjoyable evening without having a headache," she said.

And Eborn says the genuine friendliness of the couple shines through in their concerts.

"They have this talent to make you feel like they're saying, 'You are all family, and we're here to sing just for you,'" she said. "They're so grateful. They know that they're where they are because of their fans. Like Cletie always says, 'Hey, these people pay our mortgage.'"

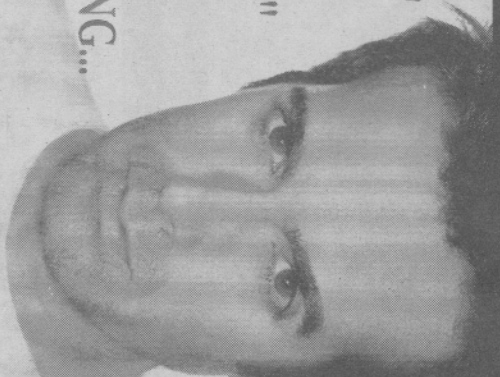
Intrigued? Want a preview of what Gypsy Soul sounds like? Visit the band's Web site at www.gypsypsoul.com. What, you say you don't have access to the Internet? Well, how about access to a television set? Gypsy Soul will perform intermittently between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. today during KSTU Fox 13 News.

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Cover Story

Roy fan makes sure Top of Utah can experience Gypsy Soul

BY MARK SAAL

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What is this strange power that Cilette Swann and Roman Morykit have over people?

Few have actually heard of the couple's band, the Oregon-based acoustic-rock duo Gypsy Soul, and yet a small-but-rabidly-loyal fan base from all over the West regularly travels hundreds of miles to see the couple's electrifying live performances.

A couple in California, after hearing that the band's equipment had been stolen during a trip to Arizona earlier this year, enthusiastically volunteered to replace Morykit's

expensive dobro. And now, a Roy woman has turned a somewhat-reluctant promoter in an effort to share the couple's music with others in the Top of Utah.

Gypsy Soul will be in Ogden for a Saturday night performance at Peery's Egyptian Theater. The entire concert was conceived, planned and paid for by Gypsy Soul fan Sandy Eborn of Roy.

"If I could just throw up, I think I'd be fine," said a nervous Eborn just days before the concert. "I thought, 'Why don't we try to do a concert here?' Of course, that was before I knew what it was like."

Initially, the plans were modest ones. Eborn and her husband would hold a small concert in a room at the

Sunset city offices.

"But then the person who does my hair has a friend at the Egyptian Theater and, suddenly, we're at the Egyptian," Eborn said.

"And now, three months later," she jokes, "I'm on Xanax."

Eborn counts herself among those rabid Gypsy Soul fans who would travel to the ends of the Earth — or at least the Western United States — to see the band perform live. She and her husband have made trips to San Diego, Seattle, Phoenix and Oregon to see the group.

"We drive that far," she said. "And we'll keep driving. We just got back from Oregon again."

Eborn says she has no interest in becoming a concert promoter. She

stresses that Gypsy Soul is the only group she'd ever do this for.

Swann and Morykit say this isn't the first time a fan has tried her hand at concert promoting in an attempt to expose others to their music. A science professor in England was so taken with their sound that he organized a concert there. A similar concert was planned by a fan in Switzerland. And plenty of regional concerts here in the West have been planned by Gypsy Soul followers.

"A lot of our shows start with fans who say, 'I want to share you with my friends,' and then organize a concert," Swann said. "We just wanted to do a 250-seat place in Ogden, but Sandy said, 'I think we can do better.' She wanted to make it a special

show."

The Gypsy Soul concert will be in the 800-seat theater in downtown Ogden, so Eborn just hopes she can fill those extra seats. It's getting to be crunch time, and Utah's notorious reputation for last-minute ticket purchases has her a bit rattled.

"I've sold just under 200 tickets, which is very depressing," Eborn said. "I feel very strongly that if we can just get people there, they'll be hooked, too."

Asked how many tickets she'll have to sell to break even, Eborn says that doesn't even concern her.

"I'm actually not thinking about that," she said. "I just want so much to do them justice, to get people to hear them. This is strictly for love, not money."