

# Tempo

SOUTHERN OREGON'S  
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



Gypsy Soul & friends



Photo by Dragomir Vukovic

# Gypsy Soul

Roman Morykit and Cilette Swann return to the Rogue Valley

**S**outhern Oregon audiences are in for a treat when Craterian performances presents "An Intimate Evening with Gypsy Soul and Friends" Saturday at the Craterian. The event is part of the Spotlight Series at the Medford theater. On stage with the husband and wife duo of Roman Morykit and Cilette Swann will be guitarist

Jeff Pevar, horn and bass player Mikey Stevens and percussionist and guitarist Michael Forney.

Gypsy Soul now calls Issaquah, Wash., home.

They moved there at year or so ago, leaving Medford after

four years following a long stint in Los Angeles.

"It's like coming back to our stomping grounds," Swann said of the upcoming Medford concert.

By **RICHARD MOESCHL**  
Mail Tribune

"The Rogue Valley is unique in people. There are exceptional jewels we met down there, and we miss them."

Morykit and Swann met in Scotland and have traveled the world together for more than a decade. Between them, the duo have lived in five countries. After all, they have the souls of gypsies.

All of this traveling has influenced their music. So

## IF YOU GO

**What:** "An Intimate Evening with Gypsy Soul and Friends"

**When:** 8 p.m. Saturday, April 29

**Where:** Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater, 23 S. Central Ave., Medford

**Tickets:** \$15, available at the Music Coop in Ashland Willow Creek in Phoenix and the Craterian box office

**Call:** 779-3000

have their family backgrounds. Swann was born in Canada, but her roots are Irish and South African. Morykit was born in England to parents of Italian and Ukrainian descent. You can hear all of these cultures converging in Gypsy Soul's music. As it blends it takes on new sound that defies definition. Nevertheless, people in the music business have tried to describe it. They call it world/acoustic rock or Celtic/Americana, and they say it is reminiscent of Fleetwood Mac, Sheryl Crow, Loreena McKennett, Sarah McLachlan and Enya.

Even if they can't describe it, audiences love the Gypsy Soul sound. It has been featured nationally and internationally in film, radio, on television shows on all the major U.S. networks and in concerts. The group has performed on the same stage with many Grammy award winners, including Los Lobos, Edie Brickell and Beth Neilsen-Chapman.

Gypsy Soul has released seven award-winning CDs. Their most recent is "Beneath The Covers," which features music by other performers presented with the distinctive Gypsy Soul touch. In 2004, the group released its first Live CD, entitled "One Beautiful Night." It was recorded at a concert in the Rogue Theatre, Grants Pass.

Swann writes the haunting lyrics, and Morykit creates the equally evocative soundscapes on the guitar and bass that have become Gypsy Soul trademarks. Morykit records and produces all of the group's CDs in his studio for its Off the Beaten Track label. "We started making records in 1996," Morykit said. Their parents loaned them the money to record their first record, "Test of Time."



Photo by Dragomir Vukovic

Today, Gypsy Soul remains one of the few true success stories of the original MP3 format, having generated almost 1.5 million downloads from their site. All of this success has caught the attention of the music industry. Recently, the group signed a worldwide co-publishing/co-venture deal with Los Angeles-based PEN Music Group Inc.

Swann explained the usual approach for singer/songwriters. "You sign your life away to a record company. They give you lots of money, and they own everything you do."

The co-publishing deal with PEN Music Group is different. The group had been publishing Gypsy Soul's work for 10 years and wanted to buy into their songs. "It allows us to be as independent as we want to be," Swann said. Morykit and Swann keep their record label and own the majority percentage of their publishing as co-publishers. PEN Music Group gets a

percentage. "It's in his best interest to do a lot more TV and film to get that ownership," Swann said. "It's a very unique and very new way to go. It gives us some muscle in the industry, particularly internationally."

10 or so years. Years ago they chose not to pursue the major label avenue and set up their own operation to handle all aspects of their career.

Now with them approaching 85,000 albums sold independently over a catalog of seven albums, we felt it was the right time to specifically invest in their future, especially given the current state of the industry and the rise of the independents."

Gypsy Soul will be releasing a different version of its "Beneath the Covers" for a wider distribution in late summer, said Morykit. "We took three songs out and added three."

A new CD of original songs is due out next spring. "We'll be playing two or three songs from the CD at the concert," Morykit said.

Gypsy Soul began a mini-tour April 20, which will take them to performance venues in Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. The concert in Medford will be the only Oregon stop on the tour.

In a press release, Michael Eames, president of PEN Music Group said, "It's been amazing to see Gypsy Soul blossom as much as they have over the last

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