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AREA DUO GYPSY SOUL IS ALL OVER THE MAP MUSICALLY/58

Wanderlust music

By ROBERT KINSLER
Special to the Register

Gypsy Soul is appropriately named, with the local duo boasting a musical spirit that wanders across the sonic map.

Described as everything from Celtic folk to acoustic rock, singer Cilette Swann and multi-instrumentalist Roman Morykit have found commercial and critical success without sacrificing their decidedly original artistic vision.

And in the true essence of their name, the members of Gypsy Soul have found global success thanks to an innovative approach using the World Wide Web, placement of their songs in television and film projects, radio airplay and tours across America and Europe.

Indeed, while Morykit and Swann call Hollywood home, they are signed to Fountain Valley-based World Sound Corp. and play before their biggest crowds in Orange County. In fact, they have been able to headline at clubs such as The Coach House and Galaxy Theatre because of the most unlikely of venues for an original music group – the Orange County Market Place, the popular weekend swap meet held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.

"Unlike playing at a club where there is an expectation of bringing in your audience, there you just turn up and play," said Morykit, noting that they have had several shoppers purchase all four of Gypsy Soul's full-length releases at once after catching their show.

"It's an unusual venue for a band," Swann admitted. "At the swap meet, kids come up to look at the instruments and we're chatting with the parents. But (the fan base gathered there) is how we get hundreds to come out and see us at The Coach House."

The group's eclectic sound may well be traced to the duo's multicultural backgrounds. Swann, who was born in Canada, is of South African and Irish descent. Morykit is of British, Ukrainian and Italian heritage.

"I had moved to Scotland from France," recalled



GYPSY SOUL:
Multi-instrumentalist Roman Morykit and singer Cilette Swann make up the duo.

ORANGE POP

Swann of events that led to the duo's formation in the early 1990s. "I went around with a demo to a number of studios in Edinburgh. Someone put me in touch with Roman's brother, who was a concert pianist. Then he put me in touch with Roman. Our styles were so much alike."

Swann has a voice that draws comparisons with the likes of Tori Amos, Paula Cole and Loreena McKennitt without too closely mirroring any of those well-known singers. And Morykit uses a palette of sparse and lush arrangements to create musical landscapes that are both haunting and beautiful.

"Abroad, they consider us 'world music.' But we've

been reviewed as folk rock and Celtic. It's been one of the greatest – and most difficult – things to market," Swann said of Gypsy Soul's material.

Gypsy Soul is finding an ever-growing audience, thanks to a constant series of live dates and exposure via radio, television and the Internet. Gypsy Soul has just completed its fourth full-length CD, "Superstition Highway." Sales of the pair's first three releases ("Test of Time," "Sanctuary," "Sacred") have totaled about 23,000, an impressive record for an indie band.

"Last summer, we wanted to thank everybody. We had a fan picnic at Mile Square Park (in Fountain Valley). We had a little concert and had 250 people come," Swann said.

Gypsy Soul will perform at the Orange County Market Place, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Admission to the Orange County Market Place is \$1, though children 12 and under are free.

In addition, KLOS/95.5 FM will feature Gypsy Soul on the "Local Licks" program at midnight Monday.

The band's material has also been featured on the NBC-TV program, "Providence," a recently shown ABC-TV movie "Purple Haze" and an episode of CBS-TV's "The Young and the Restless."

And the duo's song, "Talk To Me," will be featured in the Brooke Shields feature film "After Sex," due for theatrical release this year.

For more information on Gypsy Soul, visit its Web site at www.gypsypsoul.com.

Show Weekend

**FRIDAY,
APRIL 21,
2000**
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