

THE SCENE Play list

Granite Peak Folk Sessions

Concert features Gypsy Soul bringing Celtic feel

By Todd Etshman

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The Granite Peak Sessions concert series moves to Thursday night, May 11, to bring in the nationally known duo, Gypsy Soul, at 7 p.m. at the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Hall.

It's the first Prescott appearance for the Seattle-based couple, although they have played in Flagstaff and at the Tempe Arts Festival.

Their music has acoustic roots with a Celtic Americana feel.

"Arizona has supported us even in our early days," said singer Cletie Swan. "We've got fans for life from our previous concerts."

Their music has played on television shows such as "Providence," "Felicity" and "Roswell," and they have had nearly 1.5 million downloads on MP3.com.

"We have diverse cultures at work here. Much of our sound is from our heritage and expertise," Swann said.

Gypsy Soul has eight acclaimed CDs but their current

CD, "Beneath the Covers," set for release in September, consists of cover tunes from artists such as Peter Gabriel, U2, Stevie Wonder, The Moody Blues and more.

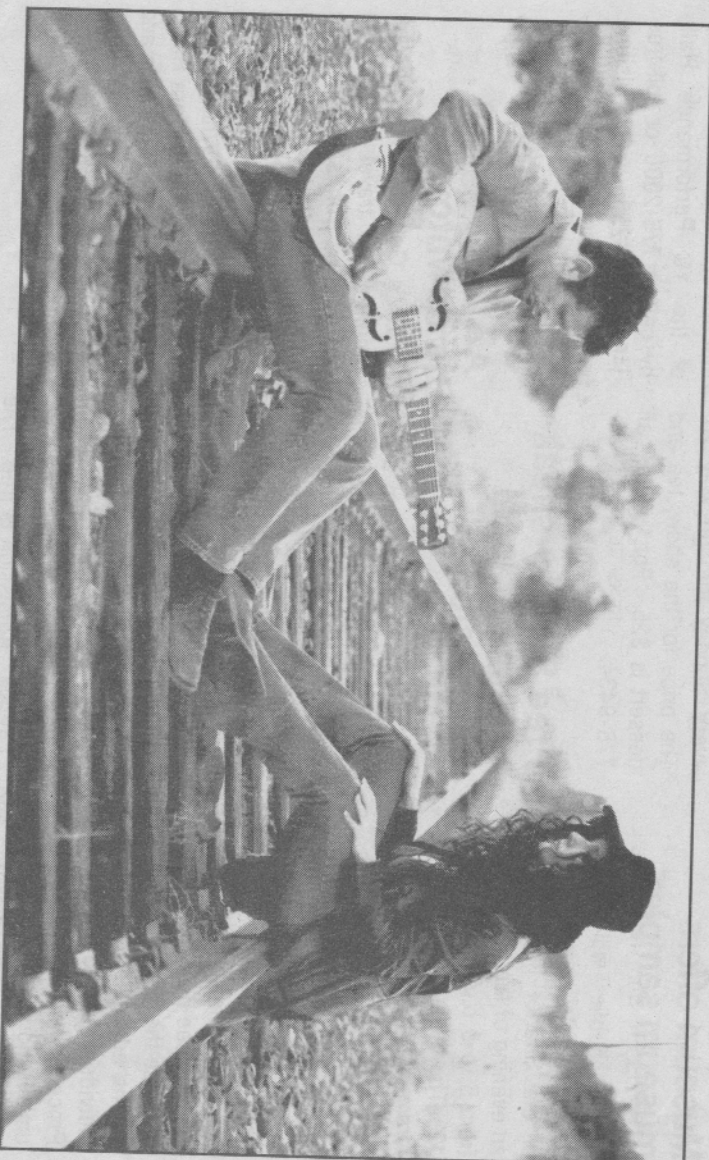
"We decided to add our flavor to some epic, historical songs," said Roman Morykit, who was a session player in London for many years before teaming up with Swann. "I like to feel an audience and find out what they want to hear. For an audience that hasn't heard us before, covers are an easy way for them to know our style. Our songs are usually slices of life, some love songs, self-reflective stuff."

Morykit plays acoustic guitar, fretless bass, piano and the dobro.

"It's good for bluegrass and a staple of our show," Morykit said of the nickel-plated brass guitar.

The couple will be playing at the Kerr Cultural Center in Scottsdale on Friday evening.

The duo has been touring steadily for nearly 10 years and sold over 85,000 CDs without a



COURTESY PHOTO

Gypsy Soul headlines the Granite Peak Folk Sessions concert on Thursday, May 11.

record label.

"We don't have to compromise ourselves," Swann said of their independence. "The people who appreciate what we do are music lovers."

After years of a grueling touring schedule and playing a lot of street festivals, the couple said

they made a health decision to play easier theater venues this year.

People Magazine said: "Her voice is haunting and his musicianship is superb. Their music stirs the soul and moves the spirit."

Concert and KJZA Folk

Sessions, Live! hosts Tom Agostino and Alexa MacDonald, will open the show.

"The series (the Granite Peak Folk Sessions) has gone remarkably well. We've built up a pretty loyal audience," Agostino said.

"Many of the groups comment on the quality of the audience."