

"More than just an exceptional form of gypsy oriented jazz, Ameranouche is a capture of joyfulness itself."

—Pat Martino



*"Their music was so infectious
it stopped us in our tracks."*

—Festival Preview
Newport Jazz Festival



The award winning Ameranouche (pronounced uh-Mare-uh-noosh) plays a passionate style of music they call "Gypsy Flamenco Swing." They are veterans of the Newport Jazz Festival, Djangofest Northwest, Musikfest Bethlehem, PA and the National Press Club.

The name is derived from two words: American and Manouche, the gypsy tribe of guitarist Django Reinhardt. The rip-roaring ensemble is a super force of hot acoustic Gypsy inspired music mixing Flamenco, Bebop and Jazz swing influences. Played on traditional French jazz guitars, the music is rhythmic, vigorous, and elegant.

Whether they're playing a musette waltz from 1930 or an Andalusian inspired original tune, Ameranouche's Gypsy Flamenco Swing style is a fresh and highly enjoyable new sound for the 21st century.

Gypsy Flamenco Swing is about coming together and celebrating our shared humanity. Ameranouche is committed to connecting deeply with its audience and sharing joy and peace through its live shows and CDs.

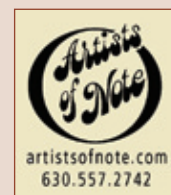
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**“Ameranouche
has the gleeful
flying fingerwork,
the high-octane pulse
that still manages to feel
wonderfully freewheeling.”**
—Rock Paper Scissors

Richard (Shepp) Sheppard Guitar

A seasoned composer and performer, guitarist Richard Sheppard founded Ameranouche out of his passion for Gypsy music and his love for the guitar in general. His work as a composer is largely channeled into the evolution of Ameranouche. In his many years touring across the country, he has recorded with or performed with artists like John Jorgenson, Ritary Ensemble, Rick Danko, Hot Tuna, and Vassar Clements. Shepp attended the Berklee School of Music, studied with Pat Martino in Philadelphia, composition and aesthetics with Dr. Frank Haas in Vineland, NJ and studied guitar with Atilla Zoller in Southern Vermont. He has taught guitar, composition, and music theory as a faculty member of Bennington College and Pittsfield Community Music School. Richard endorses DRH guitars, Wegen picks and John Pearse strings.

***“an infectious blend of fiery jazz,
old world traditional music and soulful pulses...”***

— Celebrity Cafe

Notable performances by Ameranouche

Newport Jazz Festival (Newport, RI)
National Press Club (Washington, DC)
Musikfest (Bethlehem, PA)
The Rooster's Wife (Aberdeen, NC)
Schoodic Arts Festival (Winter Harbor, ME)
Regattabar (Cambridge, MA)
Rosendale Cafe (Rosendale, NY)

Jack Soref Guitar

Born and raised in Madison, WI, Jack has performed all over the USA and in France, and Scotland, and at festivals such as Django in June, The Brooklyn Djangology Festival, and The Midwest Gypsy Swing Fest. He has performed in concert with such Gypsy Jazz luminaries as Violinist Tim Kliphus, and Guitarists Adrien Moignard, Gonzalo Bergara, Aurélien Bouly and Titi Bamberger. Additionally, Jack has been a guitar instructor at Django in June's week-long Gypsy Jazz music Camp almost every year since 2009. For half of 2011, Jack studied the music of Django Reinhardt at its source by moving to Paris, France. While there he jammed with the old masters like Boulou Ferré and Romanian violin maestro Florin Niculescu as well as the young virtuosos currently storming the Paris scene.

Michael K. Harrist Bass

A versatile bassist, Michael K. Harrist has toured extensively throughout Europe and the U.S. with the internationally praised new music ensemble Capillary Action, and regionally with Orkestra Marhaba and the Yuka Hunt Trio (with jazz great Joe Hunt), among others. He draws heavily from his background in Jazz improvisation and is deeply committed to studying Hindustani music, late Romantic harmony and classical Ottoman/Mevlevi music. He has studied with maestro William Allaudin Mathieu, neyzen Fred Stubbs, sarangist Ramesh Mishra, and bassist James MacDonald. He received his BA in music and religion from Marlboro College under composer Stan Charkey and religion scholar Amer Latif.

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