

Hot Club of Detroit Biographies

Evan Perri Lead Guitar

Although he claims to have no Gypsy blood in him, Hot Club founder Evan Perri spent nearly six years roaming the campuses of five different colleges in search of the right music program. He studied jazz at Berkeley College of Music, Musictech College in Minneapolis, and Western Michigan University before settling in at Wayne State University in Detroit. He is the son of a jazz guitarist, but Evan did not pick up a guitar until age 16 and never heard a Django Reinhardt recording until his twenties. However, while still a fan of greats like Joe Pass, Pat Martino, Wes Montgomery, and Kenny Burrell, he vividly remembers hearing Django for the first time and thinking, "This is it. This is what I've been looking for." The HCOD was born out of his desire to recreate the sound he describes as "Parisian Café 1936, but with better sound equipment" in Detroit. A dedicated student of Reinhardt and the gypsy guitar tradition, Evan plays on a "Jimmy Rosenberg" model guitar made by Dell Arte.

Julien Labro Accordion, Accordina

As a young boy growing up in Marseille, France, Julien Labro saw a professional accordionist perform on television and was fascinated with the instrument, which is highly regarded in his homeland. He begged his parents to allow him to try his hand at it, and by age nine, it became obvious that they had a musical prodigy on their hands. Since then, Labro has established himself as a rapidly rising international accordion star in both the classical and jazz worlds.

By age fifteen, Julien, who had recently graduated from the Marseille Conservatory of Music, quickly began winning international awards, taking first prize in the Coupe Mondiale in 1996 and the Castelfidardo Competitions in 1997. After sweeping first place in the Marcel Azzola, Jo Privat, and Medard Ferrero competitions in 1995 and 1998, and in 1998, Labro began studying under internationally acclaimed accordion maestro Peter Soave, who was Adjunct Associate Professor of Bandoneón and Bayan at Wayne State University.

The liaison with Soave resulted in the opportunity for Labro to move to the United States, a dream that he had harbored for several years. Since then, Labro's reputation as a formidable and dazzling musician has continued to grow on this side of the Atlantic. Soave expanded Labro's musical desires, and under Soave's tutelage, Labro has mastered the bayan (classical accordion) and its repertoire, and discovered the bandoneón (tango accordion). Labro was the winner of WSU's Concerto Competition in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and was recipient of the Lawson Scholarship in 2002, the prestigious Presidential Endowed Scholarship in 2003, and the Presser Scholarship in 2004. Labro was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Honorary Musical Fraternity in 2004, and was recognized by the United States Achievement Academy as a Collegiate All-American Scholar in 2003.

and 2004. Labro, a 2005 Magna Cum Laude Bayan Performance graduate of WSU, holds a Masters Degree in Jazz Studies, and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Music Composition.

Labro has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe, and has performed in France, Italy, Slovenia, Andorra, Portugal, Germany, Croatia, Finland, and Sweden. Stateside, he has been a guest artist with the Grosse Pointe Symphony, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony, the Saginaw Symphony, the Bijou Orchestra, the Wayne State University Orchestra, and the Michigan Pops Orchestra. Labro also performed at the International Finnish Accordion Festival, and the International Las Vegas Accordion Convention, where he was featured with accordion legends Dick Contino and Art Van Damme.

Labro has made numerous radio and television appearances in the United States and Europe, and has played and been interviewed on Radio France, WDET-Detroit's Ed Love and Martin BanDycke Shows, WFJ-AM's Mitch Albom Show, and Fox-Detroit News. On a creative level, Labro has been enlisted as an arranger for several professional ensembles, most recently for Ensemble Vivant of Toronto, led by international pianist Catherine Wilson.

Labro has been a long-standing member of the Hot Club of Detroit and currently resides in Canton MI.

Paul Brady Guitar

In 2005 Paul Brady graduated from DePaul University with a degree in jazz studies. During that summer he performed with the Hot Club of Detroit for the first time. Within weeks following that performance at the Detroit Jazz Festival, the band was asked to record for Mack Avenue Records, and Brady was invited to be a full time member. From 2005 to 2007, Brady was also on the faculty at the David Adler Center for Music and Arts in Libertyville, Illinois. There he taught guitar, bass, and jazz improvisation while freelancing as a guitarist in Chicago.

As a classical guitarist, Brady made his recital debut as a part of the Adler Center's Faculty Concert Series, which included performances of chamber music with Mezzo soprano Cecila Hall and members of the Chicago Civic Orchestra. Brady has also studied conducting with Michael Lewanski and Kenneth Kiesler.

An active producer, Brady has co-organized the Detroit Django Reinhardt Festival along with HCOD leader Evan Perri for the last two years. Working with Perri, the two continue to bring this festival into the mainstream by prompting sponsorship and bringing in nationally known guest artists, including Howard Alden and James Carter. Brady made his debut as a record producer in 2008 working with the jazz trio "Kaleidoscope" from Chicago, whose release will be available through jazzexchange.org. Future producing

engagements will take him back to Chicago to work with the flamenco ensemble led by percussionist Kassandra Kocoshis.

As a writer, Brady contributes to the blog at jazzexchange.org and will begin work on a Master's Degree in Jazz History and Research this fall at Rutgers University. Continuing to perform with the Hot Club of Detroit and as a free lance jazz/classical guitarist remains a focus, as well as writing, producing, and teaching.

Carl Cafagna

Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute

Carl Cafagna is a full-time professional musician in Metro Detroit. He is active as a freelance saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist, vocalist, and drummer, having performed with the Temptations, Natalie Cole, the late Mel Torme, the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Marcus Belgrave, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, Don Rickles, Bobby Watson, Verve Pipe, the Johnny Trudell Orchestra, Simone Vitale, Richie Cole, John Hendricks, the Detroit Lions Pep Band, the Toledo Jazz Orchestra, the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and is a member of the Hot Club of Detroit. Carl owns *Sweet Beat Productions*, a music booking and publishing company, and runs six of his own bands, including *North Star Jazz*, the *Big Band Machine*, and *Sound Love*. He also appears regularly aboard the Detroit Princess riverboat. Carl is dedicated to music education, having taught music theory, jazz improvising, jazz performance, and elementary beginning band at Western Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, CASA School, Berkley Public Schools, East Lansing High School, St. Johns Public Schools, Walled Lake Central High School, and the Michigan Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Currently, Carl runs the Sweet Beat Jazz Institute, which offers group jazz classes, teaches private lessons to students of all ages, runs a monthly jazz jam session, and holds music clinics at schools throughout Michigan. When he's not involved in all these activities, Carl enjoys spending time with his wife Kati, and daughters Anna, Grace, and Madeline. Carl holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA.), and a Master of Music degree from Western Michigan University.

Shannon Wade

Bass

Shannon Wade, double bassist, graduated from Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music in 1998 with a degree in composition and bass performance. After studying orchestra and jazz bass with Peter Dominguez, Rodney Whitaker, Dan Pliskow, Edgar Meyer, and Richard Davis, he began performing with the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, as well as with Marcus Belgrave, The Creole Kitchen, Delfeayo Marsalis, Matt Combs, Gene Wooten, Chris Jones, Vince Gill, Craig Havighurst, and many others.