

Jazz Beyond Borders

For Immediate Release:

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BALTIMORE BANDS ANNOUNCE 2017 WINTER TOUR DATES

Ultrafaux and Hot Club of Baltimore Showcase Contemporary and Traditional Gypsy Jazz

Inspired by the legendary Django Reinhardt, Baltimore guitarist and band leader Michael Joseph Harris leads two gypsy jazz bands on a 2017 Winter Tour. Beginning mid-January, Ultrafaux and Hot Club of Baltimore will play a dozen cities in Northern Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia and Louisiana, culminating in a March 5 appearance at the Django-a-Gogo Festival in Brooklyn, New York. For details see <http://www.michaeljosephharris.com> and <http://www.jazzbeyondborders.com>.

Harris became a respected ambassador of traditional gypsy jazz after founding hard touring Hot Club of Baltimore in 2012. Two years later he added progressive gypsy swing group Ultrafaux, taking the music to a new level by adding his own contemporary compositions. The resulting repertoire reflects influences of Romani and Balkan folk, swing, funk, blues, Dixieland and bebop. (Django recorded bebop influenced *Django in Rome 1949-1950*. Harris pays homage to that and other periods).

Ultrafaux and Hot Club of Baltimore are comprised of the same core members: Harris and Sami Arefin trade positions on lead and rhythm guitar. Eddie Hrybyk (pronounced RYEBik) plays bass. Both bands have released two albums with a third in production. In 2016 contemporary trio Ultrafaux released *Deuxième*; the more traditional Hot Club of Baltimore released *Coquette*. Winter Tour audiences will be treated to new tunes by both entities!

The groups have played countless concerts, earning abundant press. Says Tom Cole of Pacifica Radio's WPFW, "These folks can handle the complexities and breakneck speeds of Roma swing...we can come close to the experience of what it must have been like to hear Django Reinhardt play...in 1937." Says Sam Sessa of WTMD Radio, "Ultrafaux breathes new life into jazz, while holding onto the sense of nostalgia that makes this genre so timeless and appealing in the first place."

In the U.S. the musicians have toured both coasts and points in between playing clubs, concerts and festivals. They've appeared at Django by the Sea, The Midwest Gypsy Swing Festival, Baltimore Jazz Fest and the Django Jazz Festival. Harris is artistic director and founder of the latter sellout event. The Second Annual Django Jazz Festival takes place at Creative Alliance in Baltimore February 24 and 25 in 2017. The groups have also performed in Montreal and are planning their first European tour.

Harris studied with guitar with Rick Whitehead in high school and Jack Petersen at North Texas State. He performed in D.C. with popular Latin Jazz group Bossalingo and moved to Baltimore in 2006 and turning his attention to gypsy jazz in its many forms.

A popular video captures him in concert. See Ultrafaux & Hot Club of Baltimore - Full HD Concert @ Creative Alliance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqr2WkuRPbA>. The albums *Deuxieme* by Ultrafaux and *Coquette* from Hot Club are available from bandcamp.com.

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2017 WINTER TOUR DATES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017

[Creative Cauldron](#)

410 S Maple Ave, Falls Church, VA 22046

(703) 436-9948

Hot Club Of Baltimore

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2017

[Gypsy Sally's Vinyl Lounge](#)

3401 K St NW, Washington, DC 20007

(202) 333-7700

Ultrafaux

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2017

[Chestnut House](#)

25 W King St # D, Lancaster, PA 17603

(717) 393-0111

Ultrafaux

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2017

[5 Walnut Wine Bar](#)

5 W Walnut St, Asheville, NC 28801

(828) 253-2593

Ultrafaux

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 2017

[Bobby's Idle Hour Tavern](#)

1028 16th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 726-0446

Ultrafaux

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 2017

[Hendershots](#)

237 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

(706) 353-3050

Ultrafaux

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2017

[Red Light Cafe](#)

Amsterdam Walk, 553 Amsterdam Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

Ultrafaux & 9 String Theory

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2017

[The Crow And Quill](#)

106 N Lexington Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

Ultrafaux

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 2017

[UU Coffeehouse](#)

2701 Heyward St, Columbia, SC 29205

(803) 200-2824

Ultrafaux

MONDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2017

[The Dragon's Den](#)

435 Esplanade Ave, New Orleans, LA 70116

(504) 940-5546

Ultrafaux

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2017

[Marigny Opera House](#)

725 St Ferdinand St, New Orleans, LA 70117

(504) 948-9998

Ultrafaux Feat. Russell Welch & Connor Stewart

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2017

[Bistro 29](#)

3911 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22207

(703) 528-1111

Hot Club of Baltimore

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 18TH, 2017

[Twins Jazz](#)

1344 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009

(202) 234-0072

Hot Club of Baltimore

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2017

[Creative Alliance](#)

Charm City Django Jazz Fest

3134 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

(410) 276-1651

Ultrafaux & Russell Welch Quartet

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2017

[Barbés](#)

Django-a-Gogo Festival

376 9th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215

(718) 965-9177

Ultrafaux