

GYPSYMANIA QUARTET

Music and Education Bios

All four members of the Hot Club swing jazz group Gypsy Mania have extensive experience as music educators and facilitators in the field of jazz and their respective instruments.

Gary Schulte - violin

Gary Schulte is a sought-after performer, teacher, workshop leader and improviser of violin technique in all styles from classical to world music to the most out-there jazz and performance composition. He is also known for his collaborative work with performance painters, poets, dancers and the theater in which he illustrates and emphasizes the interactive process. Over the past 30 years he has taught workshops in conjunction with the Minneapolis Folk Festival, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Walker Art Center, National Public Radio, Northern Minnesota Bluegrass festivals, and his Concerts in Unusual Places series.

Reynold Philipsek - guitar

Reynold Philipsek has taught guitar classes, workshops and private lessons for thirty years, and has managed music education at two major Twin Cities music stores: Knut Koupee and Willies American Guitar. He has also taught music theory and guitar for local Minneapolis school districts. Reynold has recorded over 30 albums, was chosen for the Guitar Player Magazine Jazz Poll for eleven consecutive years, was nominated for seven Minnesota Music Awards and received a five star review in Down Beat Magazine at the age of 22. He has had three songs in the top 75 Gypsy Jazz Essentials at iTunes.

Glen Helgeson M.Ed - guitar

Composing and performing for nearly three decades, Glen has established himself jointly in both world music and in the field of music therapy. Helgeson currently performs with his world-beat jazz group, Axis Mundi; and the Gypsy "Hot Club" swing jazz group, Gypsy Mania. Glen has his masters in music education with an emphasis in music therapy. He has eleven years experience as a board certified Neurologic Music Therapist and guitar teacher in special education. He has composed music for seven CDs, received national air-play, several grants and a Minnesota Music Award.

Jeff Brueske - bass

Jeff Brueske has performed in varied settings including straight ahead jazz ensembles, accompaniment for modern dance, avant garde bass duets, and solo classical bass. He has studied with a who's who of bass legends such as Rodney Whitaker, Anthony Cox, the late Dennis Irwin, and Oregon's Glen Moore. Jeff has taught literally hundreds of students of all ages and abilities for the last 21 years. He is on adjunct faculty at Bethel University in St Paul, MN and has students who have gone on to pursue music in advanced degrees and in competitions. He has presented clinics in public schools and festivals on bass history and technique and is known for his clear easygoing style.