

Adventures in Music Presents...

Teacher Guide

Pearl Django

Unit 1: Winter 2022

Performers:

Michael Gray: Violin

Rick Leppanen: Bass

Tim Lerch: Guitar

Jim Char: Guitar

David Lange: Accordion

Chris Symer: Guest Bassist

Goal: To develop an awareness of Hot Club Jazz

Objectives: The Student will:

- Become familiar with the foundations of Hot Club Jazz.
- Learn how each instrument functions as part of the group.
- Hear the sounds/style of each instrument.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE...

Pearl Django has been playing Hot Club Jazz for 27 years. Michael Gray, violinist, was originally self-taught and got a music degree from the University of Alaska. Rick Leppanen, bassist, has a math degree and started music as a rock 'n roll guitarist at age 17. David Lange, accordion, has been a recording engineer for 40 years. Jim Char, guitarist, was born in Hawaii and graduated from the Guitar Institute of Technology and has 30 years tenure as an educator. Tim Lerch is a guitar instructor in Seattle and best known for his blues and jazz playing.

The members of Pearl Django play an up-feeling style of Hot Club Jazz that have people stomping their feet to a rhythm that was started by Django Reinhardt (guitar) and Stephane Grappelli (violin) in the early 1900s. There are over 64 Hot Club Jazz Festivals a year in almost every country of the world.

VOCABULARY/NAMES

Hot Club Jazz accordion musette grande bouche petite bouche
Django Reinhardt Stephane Grappelli

POST ASSEMBLY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

- ☺ Stephane Grappelli, the violinist who started the Hot Club Jazz style with Django Reinhardt is a master musician. Listen to his beautiful rendition of “Nuage,” which one of Pearl Django’s guitar players talked about in the video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnB8E_N6M1Q

- ☺ It’s said that Django Reinhardt was one of the most influential guitar players in history, and that he changed the course of music itself. But a major lesson to learn from him is that although he faced severe obstacles – poverty, illiteracy, persecution and an accident which burned half his body and left him with the use of only two fingers, he was determined to still play music. His determination to play has been an inspiration to many people to hang on to their dreams, even when tragedy has struck. For a fuller bio of Django, see a mini-documentary on him at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6KqE_KS6p8



Adventures in Music is sponsored by: Sound Community Bank Foundation,
1st Security Bank, DA Davidson , Kurt Anderson, Port Ludlow Performing Arts, Shirley
Anderson, Rotary Club of Port Angeles