

BOULEVARD

VICTORIA LIFE AT ITS FINEST

March, 9th, 2017



Christine Tassan et les Imposteures.

GYPSY JAZZ WITH A FEMALE HEART

CHRISTINE TASSAN ET LES IMPOSTEURS

GYPSY JAZZ FROM QUEBEC

All-female bands are a rarity in the masculine world of gypsy jazz, but Quebec's Christine Tassan et les Imposteures have more than enough skill and passion to be headliners in this demanding genre.

"They are superb acoustic musicians but also great entertainers who really connect with the audience," declares Marie Bachand, who is presenting the ebullient quartet as part of the third season of her Beacon Ridge Productions.

"The band works within the tradition of Django Reinhardt but they very much create their own style by incorporating Québécois folk music and other influences into their songs. Plus they're gorgeous singers."

Bachand certainly knows her gypsy jazz — she's the mother of Quinn and Kristina Bachand, virtuosic musicians with

national reputations. And she also knows how to book appealing, authentically funky music — she and husband Adrien have been increasing their number of shows and drawing ever-bigger crowds into the Upstairs Lounge at the Oak Bay Rec Centre.

"It's a mostly older clientele, and we often sell out the 170-seat venue now," says Bachand, who has brought in everyone from Shari Ulrich to Jim Byrnes.

She presented les Imposteures last year and couldn't wait to get them back. The quartet has been together for over a decade, and tours internationally — notably, they were the first Québécois band to perform at the Django Reinhardt Festival in France, one of the signature gypsy-jazz events in the world.

"It's obvious on stage that these four women are great friends," says Bachand. "Their music is a joy to listen to."

Performing March 10 at 1975 Bee Street. Advance tickets are recommended and are available at Ivy's Bookshop and at Oak Bay Rec. 