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By Christine van Reeuwyk

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## Songstress brings gypsy jazz to Upstairs Lounge

Christine van Reeuwyk  
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Whether English or French is your first language won't matter when the French-speaking songstresses Christine Tassan et les Imposteures perform Friday night. It's all about the gypsy jazz.

"I think it can be appreciated by Anglophone people and Francophone people. We've really adapted the show so that both can enjoy the mixes between the artists and the compositions," Tassan said.

The band returns to Greater Victoria to release a brand new album – *Felix and Django*, recently dubbed Best Jazz Album of the Year in Quebec – and a March 10 show.

"This is our fourth album, in the three first albums it was more compositions and Québécois and French songs. On this album we really wanted to have something like a story," Tassan said. "The concept (is) of a whole show, not just a bunch of songs that go well together."

Since their inception in 2003 the group has solidified its reputation with more than 400 concerts in various venues and festivals, including numerous appearances in major events.



Contributed photo

French-speaking Christine Tassan et les Imposteures bring gypsy jazz to Upstairs Lounge at Oak Bay Recreation Centre tonight.

"We're playing gypsy jazz but with a lot of other influence, other styles. In the show we present now it's a mix between Django Reinhardt and Félix Leclerk,"

Tassan said. "We know that outside of Quebec, Félix Leclerk is not very famous. We decided to extend a little bit the concept of mixing songs by mixing Djan-

go Reinhardt songs with great American swing standards."

Christine Tassan et les Imposteures started tending their craft in the gypsy jazz milieu and

VIDEO  
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performing standards to original compositions, with musical arrangements that innovate, rejuvenate and leave room for unbridled creativity.

"We have a lot of fun playing and we are really pleased to play so this enthusiasm is communicated to the audience and we love when the audience participates," Tassan said. "Sometimes they can sing along. It's a very lively show. A lot of things happen in the show musically."

A song video released on Facebook just last week is a prime example of those where they hope the audience will "Sing, sing, sing" along.

"I really love the mix we did there. It's a really happy song and it's the song we hope people will sing with us," Tassan said.

Visit [christinetassanetlesimposteures.com](http://christinetassanetlesimposteures.com) for a taste of the music. Tickets are \$20 available at [beaconridgeproductions.com](http://beaconridgeproductions.com) online, Ivy's Book Shop and the Oak Bay Recreation Centre.

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