

# Press



RICKY MOON/Special Contributor

The Texas Gypsies entertain the audience at the Town and Country Coffeehouse at Lake Cities United Methodist Church in Lake Dallas.

September 30, 2006  
Neighbors • Mesquite

**EDITOR'S PICK**

**Texas Gypsies set to swing**

**WHO:** The Texas Gypsies, a gypsy jazz/Western swing band with members from Mesquite  
**WHAT:** Concert at Earful of Texas Music Festival  
**WHEN:** 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 1  
**WHERE:** City Lakes Park in Hubbard

The event will benefit the academic programs of Penelope and the parks department of Hubbard.

The festival, which begins Saturday, Sept. 30, will have 50 bands. To camp out, head over to [www.earfuloftexas.com/camping](http://www.earfuloftexas.com/camping) and reserve your campsite for this year's Earful of Texas Music Festival or just come to see a few bands.

For more information on the festival, visit [www.earfuloftexas.com/camping](http://www.earfuloftexas.com/camping). For information on the Texas Gypsies, visit [www.texasgypsies.com](http://www.texasgypsies.com).

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one Weekend ..... May 19-21  
one City ..... Richardson  
one Ticket ..... \$20  
one Band ..... Just Kidding!

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FILE 2005

The Texas Gypsies will perform Oct. 20.

## Out to Lunch concert series

A handful of shows are left in the annual Out to Lunch outdoor concert series that runs most Fridays through Oct. 27 in the West End. The lineup includes Western swing, Latin beats and soulful sounds. Today, catch Cowboys & Indians, one of the few authentic

**SPOTLIGHT** Western swing bands in Dallas. Singer and group leader Erik Swanson has kept this retro combo going for more than a decade. The group plays classic Texas swing tunes and originals, with a twangy vintage sound. Another of Mr. Swanson's band projects, the Texas Gypsies, will perform for the series on Oct. 20. This four-piece acoustic ensemble blends Big Band swing and jazz with a Texas twist. Tom Branton will lay down some smooth piano and saxophone grooves on Oct. 6. Latin group Havana NRG will perform high-octave salsa on Oct. 13. The series will conclude with a performance by soul powerhouse band Road Crew on Oct. 27.

Nancy Moore

Today at noon outdoors in the West End Historic District, Market at Corbin streets. [www.downtowndallas.org](http://www.downtowndallas.org)

## Picking up steam

Buzz is building for the swinging Texas Gypsies

By MARIO TARRADELL

Staff Writer

### NOTES FROM HOME

A weekly column covering music from around Texas

Talk about a swinging little project, Dallas-based Texas Gypsies, a four-man band of pickers, just a jazz, vintage spin on Western swing, giving the style an international, almost credible flavor.

One listen to the group's self-titled debut CD, and you'll picture yourself in an elegant, quiet French coffeehouse. Except that the band's on-stage sounds as if it came from the Lone Star State and is influenced by the trailblazing Bob Willis and the Texas Playboys as well as a little Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli.

That's the essence of *The Texas Gypsies*, an 11-song set, consisting of seven originals and four classic covers. From the swinging ballad "Cool La Vie" and an instrumental take on Gloria Gaynor's disco classic "I Will Survive" to the sprightly swing number "Dallas & Fort Worth" and a whimsical, no-singing rendition of the Beatles' "When I'm Sixty-Four," the CD comes loaded with charm and chops.

The Texas Gypsies formed in 2000 with Dallas-based session guitarist Steve Curry leading the pack. A transplant from Los Angeles, Mr. Curry moved to Dallas in 1994 and started playing acoustic jazz with various bands. But he found a musical soul mate in violinist Jim Baker, a member of the Light Crust Doughboys and a fan of Mr. Grappelli.

It wasn't long before bassist John Hewitt and violin-chestnut guitarist Erik Swanson, who still fronts Dallas' Cowboys & Indians, joined the Gypsies fold.

"I was the first of us and we just kept jamming," says Mr. Curry by phone from his Dallas home.

"There is a sense of permanency to the Texas Gypsies. Even though a couple of members also belong to two other local bands, this is hardly a side project. The guys gig consistently, an average of five or six shows a month."

"It's been going on for a couple of years now, and everybody is way into it," says Mr. Curry. "We work more than any of those other bands. The Doughboys don't play much, and the Cowboys & Indians are more of a country-rock band now and they just play a few dates. This is where my heart is, in this band. It's so different from anything around."

And the buzz is building. A track from *The Texas Gypsies*, "Texas Gypsy Theme," should appear on the upcoming third volume of *I Hear With Texas Music* CD from the Texas Music Project, says Mr. Curry. The group takes the stage Saturday at Richardson's Contemporary Art Festival at Contemporary Park, one block east of Coit Road on Belt Line Road. The Gypsies play from noon to 1:15 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Then on Oct. 7, they will open for country singer Neal McCoy at the Firebird Town Center, State Highway 160 and State Highway 75 in north Garland. The Gypsies go on at 6 p.m. Admission is free. The band's Web site is [www.texasgypsies.com](http://www.texasgypsies.com).

For those unfamiliar with the group, get ready to see and hear four men wielding stringed instruments make rock, swinging sounds.

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Quick - QuickDFW.com  
LOCAL TRACKS

### Five to see live

12:04 PM CDT on Friday, May 19, 2006

With Ayo

1. **TEXAS GYPSIES:** Acoustic swing ... what is it? It's very original, it's a Texas tradition and it's two guitars, a violin and a bass.

•Tomorrow at the Wildflower Music and Arts Festival in Richardson

2. **DEVIN THE DUDE:** This Houston rapper guested on a Dr. Dre song in 2001. He's hosting Doobie Nights here in Dallas at a brand new Deep Ellum venue.

•Tomorrow night at the Tac Room

3. **SAINTS AND SINNERS:** Indie folk rock. Well thought out, but not overthought. Band releases its new self-titled CD at a free show.

•Tonight at Texas Jive in Denton

4. **DOWNLO:** Good for this band for shunning off its early funk-rock sound and continuing to forge ahead with hard rock.

•Tomorrow night at Curtain Club

5. **BRAVE COMBO:** Brave indeed. The ultimate Oktoberfest (or ANY fest) drinking band.

•Tonight at the Wildflower Music and Arts Festival