

BOOKING DOSSIER

PERE SOTO

GYPSY JAZZ QUARTET & TRIO

More than four decades of Gypsy Jazz

Django Reinhardt · European Swing · Original Compositions



From Django's Castle to the present

Tradition. Swing. Improvisation. Original music.

Barcelona · Mexico

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A living language

The story of Pere Soto's Gypsy Jazz project goes back to Django's Castle, the group he founded and led in devotion to the music and spirit of Django Reinhardt.

Over more than four decades the project has evolved through different formations while keeping a clear artistic identity: the acoustic sound of manouche jazz, the rhythmic energy of European swing, and a growing body of original compositions and arrangements.

From the early years in Spain to performances across Europe, the United States and Mexico, Soto has developed a personal approach to the Django tradition — rooted in its language, but never limited to imitation.

The project has appeared at major international Gypsy Jazz events including San Francisco DjangoFest and Los Angeles DjangoFest, and at important European venues such as BIMHUIS Amsterdam, where Django's Castle performed in September 2013.

TWO FLEXIBLE FORMATS

GYPSY JAZZ QUARTET

A full acoustic ensemble with the energy, interplay and rhythmic drive of the classic European swing tradition. Two guitars, double bass and drums.

GYPSY JAZZ TRIO

A more intimate format — two guitars and double bass — suited to jazz clubs, festivals, cultural spaces and private events, with the same swing and identity.

Both formats share the same principle: respect for the tradition, freedom in improvisation, and a strong emphasis on original music.



Pere Soto Gypsy Jazz Quartet

An acoustic ensemble rooted in Django Reinhardt and the European swing language, with its own identity through original compositions, arrangements and improvisation.

Led by guitarist and composer Pere Soto, the current concept brings together rhythmic drive, melodic freedom and collective interaction. The music moves between classic manouche swing, bebop-influenced lines, blues, ballads and original works — always acoustic, always swinging.

THE SOUND

Two guitars, double bass and drums form the characteristic acoustic foundation. Melodies are shared, harmonies are constantly reshaped, and improvisation becomes part of the composition itself. The Django tradition is treated as a living language, not a museum style.

THE REPERTOIRE

- Django Reinhardt and Hot Club of France classics
- European swing standards
- Blues and ballads
- Original compositions by Pere Soto
- Original arrangements and reinterpretations

Among Soto's gypsy jazz compositions are Blues Lee, Django's Dream, Rumbagology, Swing Ping, Prisoners of Love and Thanks Django — works that appear in concerts and recordings connected to the project.

The roots of the Quartet go back to Django's Castle. The present formation continues that line: Django's spirit, original writing, and decades of ensemble experience.



Pere Soto Gypsy Jazz Trio

The Trio carries the same musical identity into a more intimate and flexible format. With two guitars and double bass it concentrates on the essentials of gypsy jazz: rhythm, melody, harmony and improvisation.

The reduced instrumentation creates a close, conversational sound in which every musician has space. It is particularly suited to jazz clubs, festivals, theatres, cultural venues, restaurants, private events and smaller concert rooms, while retaining the energy of the Quartet.

THE MUSIC

The repertoire draws from Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club tradition while incorporating Soto's original compositions and arrangements. The format moves comfortably from fast swing to lyrical ballads, blues and more contemporary readings.

A FLEXIBLE FORMAT

The Trio can stand as a complete concert or as part of a larger event. It offers a sophisticated acoustic sound with minimal technical requirements — ideal where the exchange between musicians and audience is part of the experience.

SELECTED TRIO PERFORMANCE

Teatre Principal de Badalona — 2013. A documented concert of the Gypsy Trio in its reduced acoustic format.
Search: Pere Soto Gypsy Trio — Teatre Principal de Badalona (YouTube).



More than four decades

Pere Soto's relationship with gypsy jazz began in the early 1980s, when the Django Reinhardt tradition was still far from established in Spain. In 1982 he created Django's Castle as a vehicle for performance, recording and the development of his own voice inside European swing.

Over the following decades the project moved beyond the Spanish scene, with concerts in Europe and America and appearances at San Francisco DjangoFest and Los Angeles DjangoFest. In 2013 Django's Castle played BIMHUIS Amsterdam — Pere Soto guitar and composition, Josep Traver rhythm guitar, Curro Gálvez double bass — presented by the venue as an acoustic gypsy jazz trio.

The project has always been more than a tribute. Beside the Django repertoire, Soto has built original compositions and arrangements open to blues, bebop, swing and contemporary jazz.

TIMELINE

1982	Django's Castle. Pere Soto founds a long-term project dedicated to gypsy jazz and the Django Reinhardt tradition.
1980s–1990s	Spain, Europe, America. Concerts, recordings and collaborations establish Soto among the early practitioners of gypsy jazz in Spain.
1999	North Sea Jazz Festival, with organist Big John Patton.
2001–2007	Recordings: Nuages, Prisoners of Love, El Caliqueño del Califa, Blue Drag, Swing Gitane.
2008	San Francisco DjangoFest · Los Angeles DjangoFest.
2013	BIMHUIS, Amsterdam. Django's Castle.
Today	Gypsy Jazz Quartet & Trio — tradition, original music and improvisation in two flexible formats.

From Barcelona to the world

The Pere Soto Gypsy Jazz project has built a trajectory across Europe, the United States and Mexico — from the European swing scene to the DjangoFest circuit in the USA.

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL MILESTONES

2008 — United States

San Francisco DjangoFest · Los Angeles DjangoFest

2013 — Amsterdam

BIMHUIS — Django's Castle

2015–2016 — Barcelona / Mexico City

Jamboree Jazz Club · Lunario, Auditorio Nacional

2018 — United States / Mexico

Masterclasses and performances at the University of Kansas and the Tijuana Jazz School

2024–2025 — Catalonia

Tour including Jamboree Jazz Club and Jazz Cava de Terrassa

Today the project continues from its historical base in Barcelona while keeping a strong connection with Mexico and an international outlook.

A few milestones

BIMHUIS — Amsterdam, 2013

One of the project's most significant European appearances, at the renowned Amsterdam jazz venue.

San Francisco DjangoFest, 2008

Part of the international DjangoFest circuit in the United States.

Los Angeles DjangoFest, 2008

A second major US appearance in the same period.

Jamboree Jazz Club — Barcelona

Historic Barcelona club and home to several of Soto's gypsy jazz projects, including the Mas i Mas / Jamboree festival.

Jazz Cava — Terrassa

Part of the recent Catalan tour; continued presence on the contemporary jazz circuit.

Teatre Principal — Badalona

Documented Gypsy Trio concert in the intimate acoustic format.

The music in performance

Click any title in the PDF to open the video. Different formations, one language.

- **BIMHUIS — Amsterdam · 2013**
Django's Castle · live at BIMHUIS
- **Gypsy Trio — Teatre Principal de Badalona · 2013**
A Little Love, a Little Kiss · Soto / Traver / Galvez
- **Pere Soto & Django's Castle — Jamboree · 2007**
Nuages · live in Barcelona
- **Django's Castle Project — Jazz al Parc · 2011**
Nuages · introducing Tres Mamuts a Liliput
- **Blues Lee — Jamboree Festival · 2015**
Original by Pere Soto · Pere Soto amb Amics
- **Blues Lee — Gypsy Jazz Quartet · Argentona 2023**
Soto / Traver / Galvez / Heredia
- **All of Her — Nova Jazz Cava, Terrassa · 2025**
Pere Soto Gipsy Jazz Quartet · original
- **TV3 — Fusio i swing a l'estudi · 2013**
Pere Soto Gypsy Project · studio programme on 3Cat
- **Irene's GJ Adventures 635 — Meet Pere Soto**
Interview: phrasing, Amsterdam, composing, Django
- **Irene's GJ Adventures — further sessions**
QxQS86_UPqE · cY4Y8YtMdEk · yTxVe5KTCsk · eVK660d5fHo

Further Irene sessions: youtube.com/watch?v=cY4Y8YtMdEk·yTxVe5KTCsk·eVK660d5fHo · Channel: youtube.com/@PereSotoTejedor

The Django tradition — and beyond

The repertoire is rooted in Django Reinhardt and the Hot Club of France, but the project has always given particular weight to original music. Soto's contribution includes compositions, arrangements and a substantial body of material written for guitar, swing and improvisation.

ORIGINAL PIECES INCLUDE

- Blues Lee
- Django's Dream
- Rumbagology
- Swing Ping
- Prisoners of Love
- Thanks Django

These works live beside Django classics, European swing standards, blues and ballads. The result can move from unmistakable classic manouche swing to a more personal contemporary vocabulary.

THE GYPSY JAZZ FAKE BOOK

Pere Soto has also developed a dedicated collection of original gypsy jazz material, underlining his role not only as performer but as composer and arranger within the genre.

Recordings connected to the project

The recording history includes albums devoted to Django Reinhardt's tradition as well as original writing under Django's Castle and related formations.

Nuages	2001
Django's Castle — Satchmo. A recording devoted to the gypsy jazz tradition and the music of Django Reinhardt.	
Prisoners of Love	2002
Django's Castle — Imagen. Continues the group's exploration of the Django tradition.	
El Caliqueño del Califa	2004
Pere Soto & Django's Castle — Taller de Músics.	
Blue Drag	2006
Django's Castle — Satchmo. Acoustic swing in the Reinhardt line.	
Swing Gitane	2007
Pere Soto & Django's Castle — Blau Records.	
Swing Hotel du Vin	2010
Django's Castle with Bruce Adams — Big Bear Records.	
Duets Manouche	2010
Pere Soto & Josep Traver.	
Tres Mamuts a Liliput	2011
Pere Soto & Django's Castle.	

Further recordings document Soto's wider language — connecting gypsy jazz with modern jazz, bebop and other forms of improvisation.

Words about the music

“

This Catalan group is certainly the “dream team” among the bands in the Hot Club of France style.

Warwick Festival — England, 2004

“

Nobody is a prophet in his own land...

Carles Torra — La Vanguardia, 11 April 1992. The review underlined Soto's strong reputation in the Netherlands during the early international years.

JAZZ GUITAR TODAY

In 2023 Pere Soto was interviewed by JazzGuitarToday as one of Spain's leading gypsy jazz guitarists — covering Django's Castle, Nuages, and a career divided between performance, composition and production.

jazzguitartoday.com · Interview: “One of Spain's Finest Gypsy Jazz Guitarists”

PERE SOTO

Gypsy Jazz Quartet & Trio

Gypsy Jazz · Manouche · European Swing · Original Music

AVAILABLE FORMATS

QUARTET — two guitars · double bass · drums

TRIO — two guitars · double bass

Jazz festivals · Jazz clubs · Theatres · Cultural venues

Concert series · Private events · International programming



CONTACT

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From Django's Castle to Pere Soto Gypsy Jazz Quartet & Trio.