

The  
**Gypsy Jazz**  
Songbook

Volume One



*A collection of Gypsy Jazz Standards,  
written and compiled by Paul Meader and Robin Nolan.*

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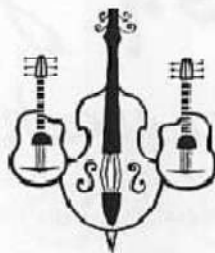
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# Forward



*This book is unique. It is the first time that a popular selection of Django Reinhardt, Gypsy Jazz Standards have been laid out in such a simple easy-to-learn format. The idea is to get you jamming on the songs instantly, very much like the concept behind the "Real Book" in the Jazz Standards world. Professionally Robin and I have been playing the Gypsy Jazz repertoire literally every day for the last eight years and have jammed with many musicians around the world. It is from this experience that we have compiled a book featuring eleven of the great swing tunes most frequently played on the scene today. We've laid out the most commonly used "Django" type chord voicings for the rhythm section, and for the soloist a very simple version of each song's melody in user friendly tablature. We have also included several American Jazz Standards which were very much a part of the Quintet de Hot Club de France song book.*

*It is important to note that the best way to get to know this music is to listen to the great Django Reinhardt himself. After that, listen to as many musicians in the genre as possible and find the players that really inspire you. Musical heroes are very healthy. These people are the key to helping you through the learning process. Music has got to inspire you in order for it to have any value in your life. To be inspired is really the best way to learn.*

*Unfortunately we can not teach you to play like Django Reinhardt. Furthermore this book is not about working you through a painstakingly complex set of transcriptions, in an academic attempt to teach you Django note for note. A book like that could take a life time to get through even with eight hours practice a day. Please don't underestimate Django Reinhardt's enormous technical facility. This coupled with an improvising ability, fuelled by a musical imagination that could spark off an infinite number of possibilities, puts him in the big boys club alongside Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Miles Davis. For us mere mortals the mystery of improvising can be easily revealed. The fact is it takes a lifetime of hard work and discipline. Years and years of practising, listening, learning and performing. Gypsy Jazz improvisation is certainly one of the most sublime of all guitar languages. It therefore should come as no surprise that it is one of the most difficult of all guitar languages to learn. Don't give yourself a hard time if after an hour of trying to get a difficult Django chord shape in place you feel like throwing the book away. Keep in mind that the European gypsies who keep this tradition very much alive in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France have been passing the music on from generation to generation using Django's LP records as their only source of reference material. There is no sheet music. No books. No handy information. They learn this music, their music, from an very early age, sitting at the feet of elders strumming toy guitars and fiddles in time with the amazing sounds being generated by their brothers, cousins, fathers and uncles at a camp fire jam session. They practice all day, every day. For the gypsies it is a way of life.*