

PRESS RELEASE

Giacomo Smith feat. Mozes Rosenberg **MANOUCHE**

- Released on CD, LP and in digital distribution



Giacomo Smith was born in Italy but grew up in upstate New York. His early encounter with jazz was mainly due to his mother's great enthusiasm for Dave Brubeck, and he started playing piano at the age of 5. At the age of 10, the clarinet followed and soon the saxophone. He developed a deepening interest in jazz and classical music along the way.

Smith pursued a classical music degree in college, earning a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University in 2009 and a Master of Music degree in classical clarinet from McGill University in 2011. He then moved to London for work, spending his days on the computer and evenings exploring the London jazz scene at places like Nightjar, The Haggerston, and Ronnie Scott's. Unbeknownst to his mother, he soon quit his day job to devote himself to music, including as a regular member of Kansas Smitty's House Band. Today, he tours the world.

Giacomo is an excellent musician with tremendous technical prowess, firmly rooted in tradition, and an unabashed affinity for Django Reinhardt and his music. He also enjoys international success as a regular member of Snorre Kirk's European Quartet.

His interest in Jazz Manouche was sparked 15 years ago in college, when a roommate had a Django Reinhardt LP that they played incessantly. The album featured Reinhardt's blistering guitar playing, of course, but also, to Smith's surprise, clarinet playing by Hubert Rostaing. He had never heard jazz clarinet like this - virtuosic and swinging, devoid of drums masking the deep frequencies of the woodwinds. It began a journey into the musical world known as Jazz Manouche.

Giacomo Smith (clarinet), Mozes Rosenberg (guitar), Remi Oswald (rhythm guitar), William Brunard (bass).

AFTER YOU'VE GONE / BEGIN THE BEGUINE / BEIJINHOS / MR. TOM / EMBRACEABLE YOU / INDIFFERENCE / DREAM OF YOU / SHEIK OF ARABY / PANIQUE / FESTIVAL 48 / TIGER RAG.

CD: STUCD 25042 / LP: STULP 25041 Giacomo Smith feat. Mozes Rosenberg, MANOUCHE, Stunt Records, Sundance Music 2025.



Manouche might as well be called 'Django jazz' after the French Sinti guitarist. The Sinti people refer to themselves as Manouche, and by settling in Europe, Smith created an opportunity to get intimate with the genre. The first time he met guitarist Mozes Rosenberg, he once again experienced the overwhelming feeling of being in direct contact with the source of the music.

Rosenberg, who is Dutch Sinti and related to Django Reinhardt, is a virtuoso guitarist who plays with incredible soul and nerve. His rhythmic drive and lyrical interpretations of melodies are simply breathtaking. As the latest guitar talent from the Rosenberg dynasty, he possesses exceptional technique and a natural sense of swing. He is one of the most remarkable acoustic guitarists of his time, combining the traditional Dutch playing style with more modern phrasing and licks.

It was only natural for Giacomo Smith to assemble a band paying tribute to Reinhardt's music - with Mozes Rosenberg at the center. His sound honors Django without copying him, and comes through in the essence of this album. Smith describes his love of Jazz Manouche as an unexplored treasure, and hopes the recording brings listeners the same excitement he felt when first hearing Django Reinhardt and Hubert Rostaing all those years ago.



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