

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact (additional photos): Sarine Gureghian (818) 398-7331
Email: bratschla@gmail.com

French Tsigane Group Bratsch at Ford Amphitheatre

“A wonderful journey from west to east with a group of unrestrained nomads who create fun playing music of all borders: Gypsy, Russian, Armenian, Yiddish melodies or songs of their own. The audience goes wild, demands more.”

—L'Espresso

The French group Bratsch will perform a single Los Angeles concert on Saturday, May 21, 7:30 pm., at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood Hills, to mark only their second appearance in the area since forming 25 years ago.

The evening promises a lively mix of gypsy, jazz, klezmer, and rembetika, with five impassioned musicians on the guitar/bouzouki, violin, double bass, accordion, and clarinet.

Playing with festive enthusiasm, the group Bratsch offers an intoxicating mix of heartfelt music from Eastern European traditions to Greek, Armenian, South American, Arabic, Yiddish, and much more. Anything is possible with their lively improvisations that mix a variety of musical traditions to offer up nostalgia and sheer fun.

For tickets, go to www.fordamphitheatre.com, or call the Ford Box Office at 323 GO 1-FORD (461-3673), or (818) 398-7331. Tickets are \$40 and \$30. Group discounts are available.

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., East, off the 101 Hollywood Freeway, across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The Ford is disabled accessible.

On-site, stacked parking costs \$10 per vehicle for evening shows.

BRATSCH FROM PARIS

Saturday, May 21 at 7:30 pm

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre
2580 Cahuenga Boulevard East
Hollywood, CA 90068

Tickets: \$40 and \$30, visit www.fordamphitheatre.com, or call the Ford Box Office at 323 GO 1-FORD (461-3673), or (818) 398-7331. Group discounts are available.

The John Anson Ford Theatre is a regional park of the County of Los Angeles, devoted to the presentation of the performing arts and operated by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Los Angeles County has co-sponsored this event.

THE BRATSCH PHENOMENON

Founded 25 years ago in France, Bratsch plays and sings an infectious mix of gypsy music, jazz, klezmer, rembetika, and much more. The quintet of guitar/bouzouki, violin, double bass, accordion, and clarinet, captivates audiences with their multi-faceted repertoire and delightful playing. They perform with intensity, yet humor--embracing each piece with heart and soul.

"Bratsch has masterfully revived the musical art of the European Gypsies. With stirring emotion, poignant melodies and subtle arrangements, they create a new acoustical music in which the nostalgia of Eastern Europe, the vibrancy of the Mediterranean, the dexterity of the Gypsies and Yiddish style all converge. Music without borders!" (Le Monde).

Bratsch draws on a variety of musicians and jazz styles for inspiration. In their music, rembetiko meets the blues, Romanian dance meets tango. Eastern European traditions such as klezmer are infused with new life. Greek, Armenian, and Neapolitan songs are intoned with passion. Their great sensitivity and subtle arrangements of musical traditions are characterized by improvisation--taking on new forms, new sounds, and above all, an urban spirit.

Rolling Stone describes Bratsch as inventive musicians "pursuing a musical eastern expansion of the EU!"

Bratsch has performed at the most prestigious concert venues and festivals throughout Europe, and has twelve albums to their credit. The group commands a huge following both in their native France and abroad.

Dan Gharibian: Guitar, Vocals
Bruno Girard: Violin, Vocals
François Castiello: Accordion, Vocals
Nano Peylet: Clarinet, Vocals
Pierre Jacquet: Double Bass

Bratsch Musicians

DAN GHARIBIAN

A self-taught musician of Armenian descent, Dan grew up in France, under the influence of the Armenian, Russian, Greek, and Oriental music listened to by his grandparents. At the age of 14, he discovered the music of legendary Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, which greatly influenced him; he was also intrigued by the rock music of the times. Both embodied an authentic display of energy. Before forming Bratsch in 1975, Dan played in cabarets with Greek, Russian, and Gypsy musicians.

BRUNO GIRARD

Bruno began studying the violin at the age of nine. Refusing to read music, he preferred to memorize the pieces assigned to him. He received a degree in biology, and worked as a scientist for ten years. He subsequently played in various American and French free jazz combos with Alan Silva, André Jaume, Barre Philips, and Didier Levallet. He taught for six years at the extremely progressive Institute for Artistic & Cultural Perception, founded by Silva. He formed Bratsch with Dan in 1975, and currently performs contemporary jazz with Denis Colin.

FRANÇOIS CASTIELLO

As a young boy, François faced the difficult choice of either becoming a bricklayer like his father, or a musician. He took up the accordion at the age of 13, to accompany musicians and play solo at festivals. He fell passionately in love with the instrument, viewing it not just as a tool for earning a living, rather as a means of expression. He began to play jazz arrangements, and was a member of the Jewish band Adama, where he met Pierre and joined Bratsch.

PIERRE JACQUET

During his youth, Pierre would visit Paris flea markets every weekend to listen to Gypsy groups. His musical roots are in free jazz and the Gypsy influenced Parisian Musette. He played bass with various ensembles throughout the years, including Celestial with Alan Silva, the Claudine François quintet, Texture Babucada, and was a member of the Jewish band Adama. For ten years, he promoted jazz studios for the handicapped, and joined Bratsch in 1977, when Alan Silva introduced him to Bruno.

NANO PEYLET

The only Bratsch member to have graduated from the conservatory, Nano studied under Jacques Di Donato, and went on to form the free-jazz band Arcane V. He performed in the band Bekumernis, where he met Bruno and joined Bratsch. He performs klezmer music regularly with pianist Denis Cuniot, and is a great admirer of traditional klezmer clarinetists Giora Feidman and Dave Tarras, as well as jazz clarinetist Michel Tarras.

Bratsch biography

1975

Band created by Dan and Bruno

Festival de Tabarka (Tunisia)

1977

Pierre joins the band

1978

Folk Festival (Switzerland)

De Bolk and Winterfolk (Netherlands)

1981

Fieste di Chienti fi Friuli (Italy)

1985

Francois joins the band

1986

Nano joins the band

Europa Jazz Festival (France)

1989

Notes de Voyages album concerts (Paris, France)

Printemps de Bourges (France)

1990

Sans Domicile Fixe album concerts (Paris, France)

Mosaïque Gitane (Nîmes, France)

Paleo Festival (Nyon, Switzerland)

1991

Casino de Paris (France)

International Jazz Festival (Montreal, Canada)

International Festival (Scotland)

World Music Days (Los Angeles & San Francisco, United States)

1992

Olympic Theatre (Paris, France)

Concert Tour (Quebec, Canada)

1993

Grenoble Jazz Festival (France)

Concert Tours (France, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom)

1994

Sons d'Hiver (Paris, France)

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands)

International Jazz Festival (Montreal, Canada)

- Gypsy Night in front of 85,000 people

1995

Olympic Theatre (Paris, France)

Europa Festival (Rome, Italy)

Concert Tours (Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland)

1996

Concert Tours (Austria, France, Germany, Morocco, Netherlands, Switzerland)

1997

Concert Tours (Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland)

Francofolies of La Rochelle (France)

1998

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal)

1999

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland)

2000

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Poland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey)

2001

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland)

2002

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Turkey)

Theatre Stanislavski (Moscow, Russia)

Paris Quartier d'Été (France)

Coup de Coeur Francophone (Quebec, Canada)

2003

Concert Tours (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands)

International Festival of Louisiana (Lafayette, USA)

Xbloc Reunion Festival (London, England)

Sziget Festival (Budapest, Hungary)

2004

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands)

Concertgebouw (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Khamoro Festival (Prague, Czech Republic)

Festival Interceltique (Lorient, France)

Nuits de la Mediterranean (Tangier, Morocco)

Etnosoi! Festival (Helsinki, Finland)

2005

Concert Tours (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Mauritania, Netherlands, Poland, Serbia-Montenegro, Spain, Switzerland)...BACK IN LA!