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Recent Recordings by Area Musicians

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The **Hot Club of Detroit** has just released its third album, which demonstrates the continuing progress of this unique group. On *It's About that Time* ([Mack Avenue Records](#), [MAC 1051](#)) the personnel is Evan Perri: electric guitar, Paul Brady: steel & nylon string rhythm guitar, Julien Labro:

accordion, accordina, bandoneon, Andrew Kratzat: bass, and Carl Cafagna: clarinet, tenor & soprano saxophone. New bassist Kratzat undoubtedly contributes to the growing musical maturity of the drumless quintet, but the development is clearly a group process.



Although this started out as a Django Reinhardt tribute band, it quickly became much more than that; here once again they pay homage to their idol, but modernize his message in a very personal manner. The rhythms vary from tune to tune, and the Django sound recedes somewhat into the background. There are only a handful of compositions by the maestro, and these are relatively obscure ones at that. The rest are from the pens of the members of the Hot Club as well as by unexpected composers such as Frederic Chopin, Joe Zawinul, or Charles Mingus.

The main soloists are Perry, Labro, and Cafagna. The founder's guitar lines have less and less Django in them, Cafagna uses all his horns well, especially his sweet-voiced soprano sax, and Labro continues to amaze. He brings a modern harmonic sophistication to traditional heart-on-your sleeve accordion/bandoneon stylings, without losing the emotional impact of the tradition. The Hot Club creates many different sounds without sacrificing group identity, use a well-chosen variety of compositions, and most important, they swing like mad without overwhelming the listener.