



In 2012, after years of performing mostly Brazilian and Latin influenced original music, guitarist **Michael Joseph Harris** began studying and playing the music of legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt which led to the creation of **The Hot Club of Baltimore** later that same year. After a surge of Django-inspired composing in 2013, Harris formed the band **Ultrafaux** in 2014 to perform his original songs in the style of Gypsy Jazz. In 2015, Harris founded and remained Artistic Director for **Charm City Django Jazz Fest**, the only annual Jazz festival in Baltimore, Maryland. Through his role as festival director, Michael has formed relationships with some of the best players on the international scene while fostering a strong local following. As a result, Baltimore Style Magazine named Michael one of the city's top musicians and he was featured in a full-spread article in The Baltimore Sun newspaper. Michael keeps a busy touring schedule with both bands while building a local music community leading his weekly Monday Django Jazz Jam and teaching ongoing workshops on the style and technique of Django Reinhardt.

Since 2014, Michael Harris has quickly become one of the most prolific composers of Gypsy Jazz-inspired songs in the world releasing a total of 8 full-length Reinhardt-inspired recordings by both groups since 2014. Harris' songs **Latcho Dromo** and **Signs of Struggle** were included on an International compilation of top Gypsy Jazz produced by Jon Larsen called **Django Festival #9 & #11**. **Hot Club of Baltimore** was featured on the same compilation with their recording of **Place de Brouckere** on **Django Festival #10**. Michael's most recent album **Tangent** introduces a larger **Ultrafaux** ensemble, adding top guest artists from the jazz, folk, and bluegrass scene including violinists Jason Anick and Patrick McAvinue, clarinetists Giacomo Smith and Connor Stewart, bassist Geoff Saunders, and accordionist Dallas Vietty. Harris has been featured twice at Festival Django Reinhardt in France, twice at Django by the Sea, at Django-A-Gogo NYC, at The Blue Note NYC, twice at Midwest Gypsy Swingfest, twice at Napa Valley Jazz Society, twice at Djangoary Soiree, twice at Django Birthday Festival, at Le Quecumbar London, Jazz Club Lyon St. Georges, Art Base in Brussels, IMT Folk Series in Maryland, and the Preston Jazz and Improvisation Festival in England (2018 & 2020 which was postponed due to covid-19).