

## Mp3 Mike Ferro - Django By Ferro



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Jazz vocals with original lyrics to Jazz legend Django Reinhardt, with a wide variety of Jazz Instrumentation. 13 MP3 Songs JAZZ: Jazz Vocals, JAZZ: Traditional Jazz Combo Details: How This CD Came To Be By Linda Ferro Six years ago, my husband, Mike, and I read the excellent biography, Django Reinhardt, by Charles Delaunay. The book was inspirational and we discovered that the man, Django, was so much more than a musician. We decided to write lyrics to some of Djangos music, some of which was co-authored by the great violinist, Stephane Grapelli. We felt that the melodies and rhythms would lend themselves beautifully to words. Mike and I didnt just want to impose our thoughts and feelings, so - in addition to the biography - we read as many books, articles, and liner notes as we could find by other admirers and critics of Django, including Ian Cruikshanks stunning and moving, Djangos Gypsies. We shared the books, albums, stories, and videos with friends and all were moved by the spirit of Django. Djangos life was as spellbinding as any novel. He was a man who conquered devastating social and physical handicaps, overcame poverty and illiteracy, survived war. He was a musician, a painter, a fisherman, a gambler, and a world-class billiard player. He loved music, his friends, his mother, his wife, his son. He died tragically young, and yet left an immortal influence. We approached the music with the utmost respect. The lyrics reflect the song titles, as well as the life and times of Django: At Djangos sings of the club Django always wanted to own; Djangos Island could be the place of Porto Cabello; Gypsy Blues could have been Ikes lament; If Youre In The Mood is a cabaret fantasy; Midnight Ride refers to the flower in Fleur d'Ennui and the lonely after-hours life of a musician; My Love For You sings about the East as does Oriental Shuffle. And so on. This was a labor of love. I hope that this work brings Django to life for those who would have found him unreachable before. I hope that others discover Djangos genius, the brilliance of his compositions, the haunting beauty and romance of his music. He was

a handicapped illiterate gypsy who became the greatest jazz guitarist who ever lived. I hope his genius lives on and inspires others the way it did us, and I hope that Django Reinhardt be remembered and revered, not only as a great musician, but as a great man. *Django By Ferro* Romantic, sensual, adventurous. Those are some of the first things that come to mind when you hear this CD. It is an album that can be appreciated on a number of different levels. Maybe the first time through, you can just relax in its smooth blanket of sound. Listen to Ferros rich voice caress the music, all of which is by the legendary Belgian gypsy guitarist, Django Reinhardt. Django injured his hand in a fire, and guitarists ever since are trying to figure out how he played his instrument so fabulously. (Woody Allens movie, *Sweet and Lowdown* dealt with this same question.) Composers are still trying to figure out how he wrote such exceptional songs, too. This is music that can be enjoyed at many different times of day, while alone or with someone. But it is also really good music for lovers. The second time through, listen carefully to Mike and Linda Ferros lush and poetic lyrics. Hear how their words cling to the songs, how they bring out their special magic. Then read the original song titles by Django, such as *Maison de Mes Reves*, (or *Djangos Castle*) and then the song titles in Ferros version, such as *Dreams Go Astray*. Youll begin to get more of a sense of the insinuating ways the words enhance the songs. Sometimes they are gently kidding, such as in *Oh, Miss Daphne* when Ferro sings *When youre not here - cold soup, hot beer*. More often they are gently elegant, such as in *Midnight Ride*, when Ferro croons *Youve been visiting my fantasies - stay awhile*. But always the words and the singing reveal an aptness, and a cleverness, that is enjoyable in itself. Ferro himself is something of a legend among Chicago musicians, and what an awesome group of them are assembled here! The stunning arrangements are by Larry Gray, the Chicago bassist and multi-instrumentalist who has starred with many of the greatest names in jazz and played with the world-famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra. What pleasure there is in the violin of Johnny Frigo, the saxophones of Eric Schneider and Eddie Johnson, the harmonica of Howard Levy, the tasteful drums of Phil Gratteau: indeed, any fair commentary on this musical ship would have to single out each and every one of the 19 musicians aboard. Overall, Ferro and his crew transform the music of Django. And when we really listen, they transform us. Joe Cuniff Writer and critic *DownBeat*, Hyde Park Herald, Northwest Leader *Django by Ferro* Mike Ferro has been hit by the Django bug and its contagious. The result is the swinging, strikingly original *Django By Ferro*, a 13-track collection of interpretations of Reinhardt songs sung by Ferro to lyrics written by him and his wife, Linda. [DownBeatJazz.com](http://DownBeatJazz.com) Got it! Listened to it! Loved

it! Congratulations on doing something very creative with this wonderful music. Super job! Mike Peters Jazz historian, researcher, musician, and Author of The Django Reinhardt Anthology Remembering Django his brilliance and spirit Ferro's original lyrics and vocal style magical, musical journey presented with love and respect. Beautiful! Diane Loren Jazz With Diane Loren WYMS 88.3 FM/Milwaukee, Wisconsin An outstanding CD, and I am pleased to have it in my carefully nurtured collection. I highly recommend this album for all vocal jazz lovers. John Burnett Morning Jazz Host WDCB 90.9 FM/Glen Ellyn, Illinois This album was a complete surprise and an absolute gem. Marshall Vente Musician, critic Jazz Institute of Chicago The Ferro's have taken the gypsy out of Samois and graciously placed him in their own musical backyard. It is a fine musical tribute to Django and is recommended for all. Dr. Frank Forte Just Jazz Guitar Magazine A fresh and daring approach to Django's music from a seasoned song stylist an exciting yet historical approach to jazz vocals. Peter Fallico Doodlin KUSP 88.9 FM/Santa Cruz, California This is a refreshing album respectful of Django's music but with a fresh twist of new lyrics, expertly sung and played. Wonderful! Jim Wilke Jazz After Hours Public Radio International I sorry to answer after such a delay but I was out for business and it was difficult for me to connect to Internet. I have received your beautiful cd Django By Ferro and I was delighted when hearing it. I specially enjoyed the arrangements by Larry Gray, especially on the slow numbers such as When I think about you or the extraordinary Django's island. But I enjoyed also the boppin At Django's and Sleepness arranged in Monk's way. Ferro is a great singer, he has a beautiful strange voice full of culture especially when he mirrors other singers for a few seconds. I do not speak English well enough however to understand everything immediately but I have enjoyed the poetry of his words. Many thanks for your gift that goes directly to my heart and congratulations for this great idea you have had! I think it is the first time America really welcomes the genius of Django Reinhardt. Thank you for this too! Many thanks again Denny, in bocca al lupo! and keep swinging! Amities Marc Masselin 09032 ASSEMINI (CA) ITALY Mike Ferro Django by Ferro Revoici Django Reinhardt salue cette fois par un crooner remarquable, Mike Ferro, et un orchestre de jazz. La démarche est intéressante à plus d'un titre, car elle témoigne d'un grand amour pour cette musique et d'un grand respect pour son auteur. Linda Ferro (et Mike, parfois) ont composé les paroles en anglais des différents thèmes, excepté pour "Nuage" (It's the Bluest Kind of Blues My Baby Sings) qui avait déjà été réalisées par Spencer Williams et Joe Turner. Des paroles qui se réfèrent à la vie de Django, réelle ou imaginaire. Ainsi "At Django's" (Djangology) parle de la boîte de jazz qu'il revait d'acquies, mais qu'il neut

j'aimais et "Porto Cabello" devient "Django's Island", l'île qu'une plus forte raison, jamais il n'achètera. Toutes ces paroles, suscitées par la lecture du livre de Charles Delaunay, "Django Reinhardt" auraient pu être écrites plus tôt, mais, c'est ainsi, Django est encore ignoré de nombreux jazzmen anglophones. Il va sans dire que le traitement des musiques est tout à fait autre que l'esprit dans lequel elles ont été composées. Elles sont jouées ici à l'américaine et même la guitare de Henry Johnson sonne davantage Joe Pass que Manouche. Le amateur de Django retrouvera derrière ces nouveaux titres, outre les susnommes, "Sweet Chorus", "Cavalerie", "Manoir de mes rêves", "Django's Castle", "Blues for Ike". "Fleur d'ennui", "Daphné", "Are You in the Mood", "Oriental Shuffle", "Diminishing", "Melodie au Crépuscule" et se renforcera dans son opinion que, décidément, c'était un sacré musicien. Michel Bedin Jazz Hot

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