

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photos and previous releases available at <http://berksjazzfest.com/media10.htm>.

Frank Vignola to pay tribute to Django Reinhardt with his 'Hot Club'

Reading, PA -- March 16 -- Guitar virtuoso Frank Vignola will be making his third appearance in the Berks area, his first at the VF Outlet Berks Jazz Fest. He made a lot of fans here since his two amazing concerts at the Gerald Veasley's Jazz Base last year.

Since then, Vignola has put together a searing tribute to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of his earliest musical influences, gypsy jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt. Vignola is bringing his dynamic quintet to perform Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Miller Center for the Arts on the Reading Area Community College campus.

Tickets for "Frank Vignola's Hot Club: Celebrating 100 Years of Django Reinhardt" are \$18. A leading proponent of Reinhardt's style of playing, Vignola committed 20 years to the Django legacy with Frank Vignola's Hot Club, including gypsy jazz appearances with musicians from Bireli LeGrene and Babik Reinhardt (Django's son) to Mark O'Connor and Tommy Emmanuel, as well as a five-year stint with Reinhardt friend and enthusiast Les Paul.

Vignola is an accomplished, multi-dimensional player in his own right. Monster player, composer and improviser, Frank plays proficiently in every genre, from jazz to bluegrass. In addition to being a leader for several groups, he has made featured appearances on Atlantic, Sony and Warner Brothers Records with the likes of Donald Fagen, Queen Latifah, Mark O Connor and Wynton Marsalis.

Only a musician the caliber of Frank Vignola could dare tackle the monumental task of honoring the centennial of the legendary Django Reinhardt. His tribute to Reinhardt, *100 Years of Django*, on Azica Records, was recorded all acoustic in a beautiful church with his trio and Julien Labro as special guest. The album features 10 Reinhardt compositions and received rave reviews from all over the world.

Education also is very important to Vignola. In addition to his public show Tuesday evening, he is performing a special free program for nearly 500 local city school students during the fest.

He has performed hundreds of clinics and master classes at major universities and colleges throughout the country including Julliard and Boston University, and has written 18 guitar instruction books and several CD-ROM educational products.

The 20th annual VF Outlet Berks Jazz Fest, presented by the Berks Arts Council, runs March 19-28, and features an expansive array of musical styles featuring contemporary and traditional jazz and blues artists. Over 130 events at major venues, clubs and restaurants throughout Greater Reading make this a truly unique music festival. For more information, including ticketing, artist bios and archived releases, visit www.berksjazzfest.com. For more information on the Berks Arts Council, a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to promoting the arts in Greater Reading, visit www.berksarts.org.

To order tickets for Berks Jazz Fest shows:

Visit the Sovereign Center box office, Seventh and Penn streets, Reading.

Call Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000 to charge by phone; or visit ticketmaster.com.

Order online at berksjazzfest.com.

For a complete schedule of concerts, visit www.berksjazzfest.com

Contact:

Dana L. Hoffman

Publicity Director
VF Outlet Berks Jazz Fest
610.236.4744 office
610.401.4914 mobile
dhoffman@readingeagle.com
www.berksjazzfest.com