

VARDOS



The Performers

Driven by Alana's wild violin, chased by accordion and double bass, Vardos have been performing in Australia and internationally for over ten years. Vardos play wild gypsy and traditional music learnt during trips to Hungary and Romania, from folk and gypsy musicians in Hungarian folk music schools and remote Transylvanian villages. They play irresistible, energetic songs and infectious dances!

The group appeared on the television series "Seachange", and in two documentaries shown on SBS television. As well as music for short films and other projects, Vardos has played in the Edinburgh Fringe and Edinburgh Book Festivals, on Scottish television and the BBC and were nominated for the BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards.

"a traditional and acoustic sound, with the wild fiddle of Alana Hunt... The virtuosity is just faultless, making it a joy to listen to. They bounce through Romanian, Moldavian and Hungarian tunes with joy and ease."

Geoff Burton, folkROOTS (fROOTS) Magazine, UK, 12/03

"top class musicians, they had the students all engaged. I would be happy to have them back again!"

Damian Royal, Methodist Ladies College – Junior, VIC

The Performance

- Introductory music (violin, accordion, double bass, voice)
- Explanation of how cultural stories and traditions play a big part in the music
- Traditional lost sheep story and song
- Introduction of tradition of learning from Romany (Gypsy) master musicians & demonstration of traits which are handed down in specific regions of the music
- This leads to the introduction of the *bracsa* (3 stringed viola), and musical demonstration
- Importance of hierarchy in Eastern European bands, how the rhythms work, demonstration
- Participatory follow and lead clapping piece
- Link between music and dance, celebrations at which this music and dancing happens
- Participatory dance where they learn specific folk dance (can be done in a seated area)
- Discussion about the volume of the music pre-amplification
- Demonstration of the 'trumpet violin'
- Discussion of singing technique so that the voice can carry without amplification
- Participatory song where the students learn lyrics in Romany (Gypsy) language
- Question time

Throughout the show there is further interaction with the students, e.g. what do you think these bass strings are made of? (sheep's guts), more information where necessary about Eastern European and Gypsy culture, and our travels. We can leave the teacher/s with a printed score of the song and lyrics which are taught.

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