

Blogs / Talk About Arts / Annual 2013 / The Sultans of String Perform at Sportsmen's Tavern

# The Sultans of String Perform at Sportsmen's Tavern

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COURTESY OF THE SULTANS OF STRING

Fans of gypsy jazz,

flamenco, and all kinds of experimental world music combinations won't want to miss the **Sultans of String's** appearance at the Sportsmen's Tavern on June 23.

The Sultans of String "Duo"—songwriters Chris McKhool on violin and Kevin Laliberté on guitar—will be playing at the Sportsmen's Tavern without the accompaniment of their usual instrumentalists, promising to "take you on a journey" through Spain, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Arctic of Canada.

Hailing from Toronto, the band has received several Canadian music awards, including the Canadian Folk Music Awards' Instrumental Group of the Year and *Toronto Exclusive Magazine's* Best Latin Jazz Group. While the group is lesser known in the U.S., they have a comparable sound to Buffalo's own **Babik** (awarded Best Jazz Act by *Spree*), but derive greater influence from Arabic folk and Latin music than Babik's gypsy jazz/American big band blend.

The Sultans' newest release, *MOVE* (2012), is a fresh addition to the band's discography, containing enough drama and variation to keep your attention right through the last song— difficult to accomplish with an instrumental jazz record, where so often songs seem to blend together to form one continuous piece. That kind of continuity isn't always a bad thing, but in this case the differences in emotion, tempo, and rhythm between each song from *MOVE* are refreshing, sure to keep any listener enthralled.

Seeing the Sultans of String live, too, should be an enthralling experience, considering the unique dynamic between the band's members, evident in their recordings and every photo of the band available. The music is made all the more enjoyable by the clearly genuine love the band members have for their international musical influences, not to mention that the energy present at the Sultans' Duo shows has been praised as "powerful and moving" (Mike Hill, artistic director of Mariposa Folk Festival) as well as "exhilarating & contagious" (*Halton Arts Review*). As far as live performances are concerned, what could be more important than that?

**The Sultans of String play at 6 p.m. on June 23 at Sportsmen's Tavern (326 Amherst St.). The show is 21+ and tickets are \$10.**

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