

VAGABOND

***GYPSY FIRE: SENSUOUS, DRAMATIC AND EXCITING.
SEDUCTIVE BEAUTY, STAGGERING VIRTUOSITY.***

Adam Summerhayes, England's "Paganini of the Violin," and master accordion player Murray Grainger have teamed up in an award-winning duo whose music has been described as "gorgeous stuff" by the BBC.



"Gloriously skilled, inventive and fun . . . a stunning sound . . . sheer energy . . . tightness at a million miles an hour." —folking.com

Adam Summerhayes:

**"Intoxicating . . . virtuoso fiddle playing."
—THE TIMES (London)**

**"Astonishing, all-out virtuosity."
—NEW YORK TIMES**

"Breathtaking violin wizardry." —stuff.co.nz

**"Like the direct descendant of the
devil's violinist Paganini."
—BADISCHE ZEITUNG (Germany)**

Murray Grainger:

**"You will be transported on a musical journey that
will touch every conceivable human emotion."
—FATEA MAGAZINE**

"Exciting and totally marvelous." —FOLK WALES

"Unrestrained and dramatic." —FOLK RADIO UK

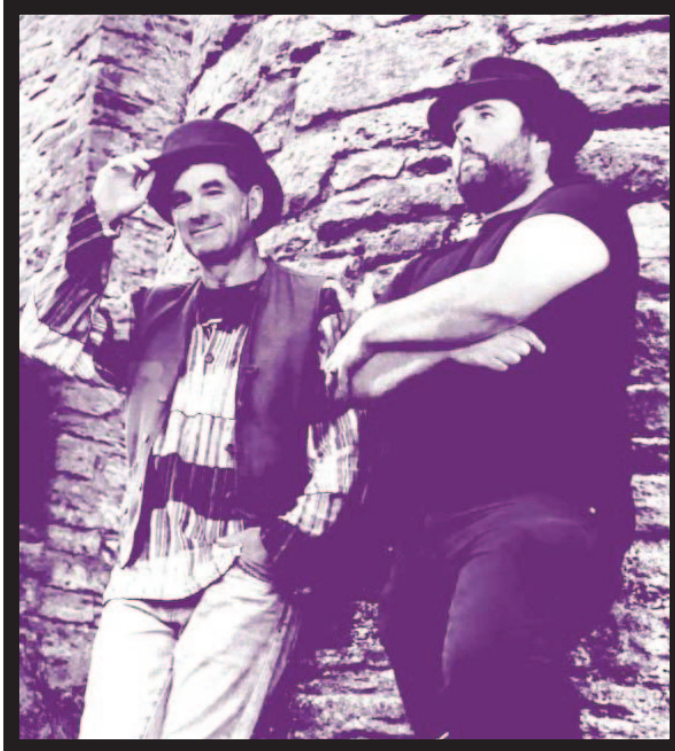
**"A truly consummate musician with
boundless talent . . . a genuine virtuoso."
—PIERS ADAMS**

the music...

“opens your soul to another world.” —Miki Lukacs, Roma musician

“Gypsy” music — fiery and sensuous — we all know what it sounds like, but who were, and are, the “Gypsies” (properly known as the Roma)?

A tribe of musicians from northern India took to the road at some murky point in history and reappeared in Hungary in the 14th century as the Roma, fleeing the advancing Ottoman empire. They cashed in on their musical skills, earning their next meal by spinning the local music around them into tantalizing, mysterious and pulsating new forms, becoming the go-to players for functions from village dances to the entertainment of princes.



And yet that is not the whole story: from medieval Europe onwards, some Jews represented another wandering tribe that had an equally specialized musical class, the *klezmerim*, who provided music for weddings and celebrations. They were also remarkable fiddlers, so it’s not surprising that they branched out a bit to take on some of the Roma musicians’ success. We know, for example, that one of the most famous Hungarian “Gypsy” band leaders of the 18th century was a Jewish man. Unpicking the appreciable klezmer influence from what we think of as “Gypsy” music is impossible.

Between dances the musicians improvised with extraordinary expressiveness and skill — they were soon the must-have players throughout central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and Spain, and courts vied to have the best band, where the Roma lent their fiddle bows to their version of whatever was in fashion.



Despite the fact that our beloved “Gypsy” music is not actually indigenously Roma, and neither were many of the famous “Gypsy” bands who created the style, it remains one of the world’s most instantly recognizable musical brands.

Adam Summerhayes

Adam and Murray have performed at the UK’s most prestigious festivals and venues, including:

- Edinburgh Festival •Glastonbury Festival
- BBC Radio 3 - Live at Broadcasting House
- Cambridge Folk Festival •FolkEast Festival