

Caravan of Thieves sure to steal the Marblehead stage at me & thee



Caravan of Thieves will perform on Friday, March 11, 8 p.m. at me & thee coffeehouse in Marblehead.

By Charlene Peters/Wicked Local Marblehead

Marblehead Reporter

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Marblehead —

Performing in a genre outside-the-folk-box, <u>Caravan of Thieves</u> will offer a gypsy feel to Marblehead this Friday, March 11, at <u>me & thee coffeehouse</u>. After what promises to be an extraordinary concert, with high-energy violin sounds, romping, foot-stomping beats and improvisational movement, you'll leave feeling more like you attended a theatrical performance.

A bit more than traditional folk music, heading the high-intensity show will be husband-and-wife duo, Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni, who utilize violinist Ben Dean, as well as double bassist, Brian Anderson, to produce driving rhythms in a quartet that will put on a circus of sound show unique to the coffeehouse.

In their first visit to Marblehead, the Sangiovannis are looking forward to stopping by the seaside town to strut their acoustic stuff. An explanation of their background, however, might be in order. Below are five questions the Sangiovannis answered to provide a brief introduction of their background and sound before they head to the coffeehouse, located at 28 Mugford St.

#1 – How do you fit into the folk scene?

Says Fuzz, "We don't really fit into any genre completely, but folk audiences seem to be some of our most appreciative. Having all stringed acoustic instrumentation and lots of vocal harmonies probably helps get our foot in the door, and then the gypsy jazz influence and the theatrical, rambunctious and interactive nature of the performance provide something a little different for these people. We always hope that's a good thing. So far, so good."

#2 – Were you love struck when you met Carrie?

"I was playing a show in Vermont where Carrie was living at the time," explains Fuzz. "She happened to be there; we met and went back to her place afterwards (was pretty 'PG'), just talking and singing songs till the wee hours. We started dating, playing shows as a duo and got engaged in five months. Didn't waste any time, I guess."

#3 – How did you form Caravan of Thieves?

"Though we had very different backgrounds, both of us had been doing music before we met," says Carrie, who was more of an acoustic singer-songwriter in Vermont, where Fuzz was a touring lead electric guitar player in blues, funk and rock bands. "The common ground was to sing together with acoustic guitars in hand, playing as rhythmically and energetically as possible. Caravan of Thieves grew out of that."

#4 – What would you say makes Caravan of Thieves stand out among other performers?

"Probably the hats," answers Carrie. "And most likely the willingness to go the extra step, both in creating something different musically, and even beyond the music — to entertain and get a rise out of the audience."

#5 - Where is the most exciting venue you've performed?

"Lots so far," answers Fuzz, "but the Philly Folk Festival in 2009 left a lasting impression. It was probably our first very welcoming response from a folk audience. Plus, there were so many other great acts on the bill. We had three separate sets there, and a workshop we shared with [banjo player] Tony Trishka."

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. for this 8 p.m. show at me & thee coffeehouse, located at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door. Tickets are available online at meandthee.org and can be purchased in Marblehead at either the Spirit of '76 Bookstore or at Arnould Gallery. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the night of the show.

As at all me & thee coffeehouse events, refreshments are available, including homemade pastries, coffee and teas. Me & thee has a handicapped-accessible entrance and an accessible restroom, is a smoke-free environment, and is easily reached by MBTA bus.

Me & thee is the oldest continually running acoustic coffeehouse in New England, and probably the country, and has been and will always be a volunteer, nonprofit organization sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead. For information and directions, call 781-631-8987 or visit meandthee.org.

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