

SATURDAY NIGHT: CARAVAN OF THIEVES BRINGS WEATHER-WORN GYPSY FOLK TO BELL'S BREWERY

by [Craig Manning](#) on November 15, 2012 in [A & E](#) , [Weekend Scene](#)



Bryan Noonan - A&E Reporter

Bell's Brewery is ready to welcome Caravan of Thieves back to its Eccentric Cafe this Saturday. A drum-less quartet based out of Bridgeport, Conn., Caravan of Thieves will bring their unique style of folk music back to Kalamazoo for a night of lighthearted fun. Consisting of a violin, two acoustic guitars, and a stand-up bass, Caravan of Thieves provides an interesting take on classic folk music with a unique brand of gypsy-jazz-swing-folk. When the band needs percussion, various members will bang on anything within reach, from buckets to frying pans, maintaining their traveling street performer sound and aesthetic.

Caravan of Thieves has become known for their whimsical vocal-heavy compositions, which tell colorful stories complete with "pretty harmonies, dark thoughts and creepy characters."

The band started out with the two guitarists, Fuzz and Carrie Sangiovanni, writing and performing as a duo. They soon realized how much they enjoyed singing together and the bond went even deeper when the two became engaged only five months later.

In the band's biography, Fuzz explains how the whole thing began "as a romantic, bohemian vision of a couple making music, performing on the road, in parks, venues, traveling around and avoiding responsibility as much as possible."

Since then, the two have added a violinist, Ben Dean, and a stand-up double-bass man, Brian Anderson, to complete their colorful vision of a band of gypsies who ran away from home to play music and never looked back.

Their debut album, "Boquet," was released back in 2009, which was followed by their sophomore album, "Mischief Night," a set recorded live from one sold-out show in Fairfield, Conn. on May 1, 2010.

Caravan of Thieves finally released their third full-length album, titled "The Funhouse," back in February of this year, a record which channels "pop bliss through (the band's) trademark lock-tight, turn-of-the-century, bang out a beat on anything that can take it approach."

What makes Caravan of Thieves so interesting is their ability to recreate a street performance in an onstage environment at their live shows. Completely acoustic, they maintain a certain level of theatricality and humor driven by a street-style of music that provides a worldly gypsy feeling. Onstage or not, Caravan of Thieves could, quite literally, perform anywhere.

The band usually comes adorned in turn-of-the-century attire, playing, banging, singing, shouting, dancing and acting. The visual styling helps to accentuate the feeling of the story and the world Caravan of Thieves is attempting to pull their listener into. However, as theatrical as they may appear to be, band members still maintain that their performance is, first and foremost, a musical experience.

This weekend, Kalamazoo music lovers will have an opportunity to judge that for themselves.

Doors open for the show at Bell's Brewery on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 8:30 p.m. with the show set to start an hour later. Tickets are \$8 and is, as all Bell's shows are, 21+. More information is available via www.caravanofthieves.com, www.bellsbeer.com or by the Bell's Brewery phone at 269-382-2332.

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