

EastWest Quantum Leap Gypsy

By Peter Lawrence Alexander / March 27, 2009

EastWest Gypsy: An exciting package offering a plethora of colors and ensembles you might not have thought of before!



One of the mistakes that's easy to make about [Gypsy](#), and I know because I made it, is to wonder why you'd ever want a library to recreate Gypsy music. Thinking that way can cause you to overlook this powerful and highly useful library loaded with colors to spice up existing orchestrations or add to new ones.

What's particularly impressive about *Gypsy* is the outstanding collection of guitars useful in any style from jazz to country picking. If you needed to financially justify to yourself why you should purchase *Gypsy*, the guitar collection, along with the solo violin, are enough.

I make this assessment having compared the guitars within *Gypsy* (see the list below) to that which is available from other libraries including *Omnisphere*, which also has a very strong collection.

Since I have most all of the solo stringed instrument libraries, including the Solo Strings in the Vienna Instruments, I can attest that there's not another solo violin like this one. In fact, the depth of tonal quality reminded me of Howard Shore's use of the Hardingfele in *The Two Towers*(LOTR).

What can be produced with this library is quite something. There are no words that can adequately describe it which is why I've made Part 1 of this review a musical presentation of the instruments and styles inherently represented within *Gypsy*.

Here's a list of the instruments that come with *Gypsy*.

- Violin (true legato intervals) classical and gypsy style
- Classical Guitar
- Spanish Steel String Guitar
- Flamenco Guitar
- Django Style Guitar
- Campana Accordion
- Silvestri Accordion

- Excelsior Accordion
- Bandoneon (tango accordion)
- Trombone (true legato intervals) classical and gypsy style
- Cimbalom (Eastern European Hammered Dulcimer)
- Flamenco Dancer foot stomps and castanets
- Gypsy percussion

Fast Overview

Accordion Article – The instrument is sometimes considered a “one-man-band”, as it needs no accompanying instrument; the performer normally plays the melody on buttons or keys on the right-hand manual, and the accompaniment—consisting of bass and pre-set chord buttons—on the left-hand manual.

Campana, Silvestri and Excelsior are all individual accordion makers.

[Accordion Links](#)

Bandoneon

[The Bandoneon page](#)
[From Wikipedia](#)

The Cimbalon

The cimbalon is an amazingly versatile instrument used in film, rock and modern composition including the *Hary Janos Suite* by Kodaly. One of the great surprises was “discovering” cymbalomist Marius Preda and his [Mission Cymbalom](#) project. His jazz performing on this instrument are both amazing and inspirational.

The Acoustic Guitars

There are three: classical, flamenco and Spanish steel-stringed guitar.

Classical Guitar

[Classical Guitar Article](#)
[Classical Guitar Radio from Sky.FM](#)
[Classical Guitar MIDI Archives](#)

Flamenco Guitar

[Wikipedia - Flamenco Guitar](#)
[Flemenco Guitar Homepage](#)

Steel String Acoustic Guitar

http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/topics/Steel-string_acoustic_guitar

Django Reinhardt

[Bio](#)
[Wikipedia](#)
[Django and Gypsy Jazz](#)

Flamenco Dancing

[Flamenco Dance History](#)
[Wikipedia - Flamenco](#)

MUSICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Just scanning the links and watching a few videos should demonstrate how much you can produce with Gypsy. Suffice it to say, you can go as deep as you want to go. At the same time, there's also the great challenge in learning just how to produce effectively with *Gypsy*.

Because there is so much here, I feel there's something missing. And it's the same thing that's missing in libraries from other companies including Best Service's *Ethno World 4* – the *romance* of learning and doing.

Gypsy is a library that just cries out for an Apple-styled MacWorld-like presentation visually demonstrating what's possible and how to get there. This library even has two different “Senorita” dancers and castanets. In your mind's eye, can't you just imagine a split screen with the dancer on the left and a keyboardist on the right mimicking the dance pattern!

In the absence of that I've tried to do the next best thing.

YOUTUBE VIDEOS

In the absence of the presentation I've wished for, below are a number of YouTube videos I researched that give you a basic overview of what's possible to produce if you go the distance and really get into this library.

Now, is it necessary to learn castanet and flamenco dancing patterns that you can execute on a MIDI keyboard controller? No. *But why not!*

GYPSY VIOLIN

In watching these videos, you'll see great close-ups of violin fingering technique. The broad sound of the Violin included in *Gypsy* enables you to capture many of these playing techniques. An excellent reference is [The Strings Position Booklet](#).

Sandor Lakatos

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/A0CJoxjjqNM>



Nigel Kennedy

This is a live club performance. Excellent musicianship.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/m9c0S2hRsM0>



Vittorio Monti

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/Op7GsUAiRnM>



Flamenco Guitar

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/iMUwEfCP5Ko>



Bulerias Rhythm

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/sEmsLLMbKck>



Flamenco Guitar and Dance

YOUTUBE VIDEO: https://youtu.be/IwqD859w2_E



DJANGO REINHARDT - Honeysuckle Rose

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/QATIHwBn-sM>



DJANGO REINHARDT - Nuages

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/DY0FF4iR9Cw>



CIMBALON Cimbalon in Barcelona

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/ViKdj7bOuiA>



Gypsy Cimbalon Band

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/jhz3Bp6OTAw>



Mission Cymbalom

YOUTUBE VIDEO: https://youtu.be/hC5CDQ_t_Zc



Marius Preda - Cymbalom, Violins and Accordion- Place St. Henri

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/FCkWsc3BpNk>



Gypsy Violin and Cimbalon in Performance

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/VKTEbCxaL6k>



Bandoneon - [Wikipedia](#)

Brahms Hungarian Dance No. 5 for accordion

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/sULcSBWqhzg>



Bandoneon and Guitar - Por una cabeza

This is a button accordion derived from the German Koncertina. It has left and right hand buttons but no keyboard.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/oYPYiU4XB0c>



GYPSY JAZZ – Guitars and Accordions

YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/8BAg1cmnuyU>



FLEMENCO DANCER

[Castanet Patterns](#)

[Flamenco Dance - Celina Zambon](#)

[Flamenco Dance - Maria Pages "Firedance"](#)

[Glossary of Flemenco Terms](#)

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