

STEREO

MCD 61463

Gypsy Mandolin!

MONITOR PRESENTS
THE EXTRAORDINARY
ARTISTRY OF

Howard
Frye

A MONITOR INTERNATIONAL COMPACT DISC

MONITOR
MUSIC OF THE WORLD

GYPSY MANDOLIN! The Extraordinary Artistry of HOWARD FRYE

Centuries ago, when all of Europe was divided into two distinct classes—the landowning aristocracy and the serfs who worked the land for them—there was born, in the Southeastern corner of the continent, a music and dance-loving group of people who refused to fit into either class. Unwilling to settle down, they developed into groups of wandering tribes that lived in wagons and stayed wherever a benevolent landholder let them. It was believed, at the time, that many of them had come from Egypt because of their skill with metal work and their use of ornaments. Therefore, the Europeans called them Gypsies. However, in addition to the sensuousness of the Egyptians, the Gypsies seem to have in their blood the fire of the Barbarians and the poetic musical genius of the minstrels and troubadours. The Gypsy bands travelled North and West and finally across the great sea, mostly to South America, until today, descendants of the original tribes can be found in every corner of Europe from the Ural Mountains to Portugal, and in almost every part of the New World.

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In this recording, Howard Frye has combined his extraordinary virtuosity on the Mandolin and his superb instinct for Gypsy music to bring you a selection of outstanding pieces from the pulsating hearts of these nomads. Many composers have used their folk melodies as a basis for musical compositions. Included here are some of these composed themes together with some traditional themes to bring you a program of many different moods. The Mandolin, with its unique tremolo sound and sensuous tones is a perfect instrument for the performance of the Gypsies' beautifully haunting melodies and their sometimes slow and sensual, sometimes wild and riotous dancing.

Howard Frye is one of the foremost performers and proponents of the classical mandolin in the world and has given solo recitals in New York's Town Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall as well as other concert auditoriums throughout America. In addition to concert works written specifically for the Mandolin, he has played such well known transcriptions as Bach's *Chaconne* and Saint-Saens' *Rondo and Capriccioso*. James Goodfriend, music editor of the *HiFi Stereo Review* magazine (February, 1966) said: "I recently had the pleasure of hearing a Mandolin recital by Mr. Frye in Town Hall, New York City. . . he is a master of his instrument and a consummate virtuoso if there ever was one."

However, Mr. Frye does not limit himself to purely classical concert works. Audiences of all types from the "long-hair" concert hall regulars to the longer hair Watusi dancing discoteque habitués have been equally enthralled and delighted by his performances.

The wide spectrum of the enchanting sounds of the Mandolin have been further enhanced by a complement of background instruments including piano, accordion, bass, percussion, xylophone and celeste. This album presents an authentic, yet unprecedented and inimitable interpretation of Gypsy moods through the excellent combination of exceptional talent and a splendid selection of music with universal appeal.

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THE MUSICIANS . . .

BEN JAFFE Piano, Celeste
DOMINIC CORTESE Accordion
JOE KUTCHER Percussion, Xylophone
CHARLES GALAZAN Bass

Musical arrangements by BEN JAFFE

Photo: Leonard Heicklen

GYPSY MANDOLIN!

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HOWARD FRYE

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. CZARDAS (Monti) | 4:11 |
| 2. KHAITARMA | 2:27 |
| 3. a) ROMANCE DE AMOR (V. Gomez) | } 4:31 |
| b) TICO-TICO (Abreu) | |
| 4. MIDNIGHT IN MOSCOW (Moscow Nights)
(Soloviev-Sedoy) | 2:46 |
| 5. RUSSIAN POLKA | 2:32 |
| 6. a) STELUTZA | } 4:14 |
| b) CIOCARLIA | |
| 7. DOINA | 3:20 |
| 8. a) KALITKA | } 4:21 |
| b) TSIGANKA | |
| 9. MAGYAR MEDLEY | 4:03 |
| 10. HASSIPICO | 2:18 |
| 11. TSUIKA | 1:52 |
| 12. HORA STACCATO (Dinicu) | 1:49 |

HOWARD FRYE, Mandolin
Ensemble conducted by Ben Jaffe



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