



**KAL**  
THE ROM SOUND AND FURY (THE SEQUEL)  
FALL 2008 U.S. TOUR  
**2008**

Voice of Roma - Romani Routes  
presents

The sizzling synergy of Voice of Roma's Romani Routes production: "KAL: The Rom Sound and Fury" U.S. 2008 Tour, boldly reclaims Rom identity and music in a gutsy, uncompromising challenge to the dominant paradigm of "Gypsy-hype". The partnership between KAL and VOR is no chance love affair - VOR has been promoting Romani artists for many years in an authentic cultural context; counteracting stereotypes about "Gypsies" and educating U.S. audiences about the depth and breadth of Romani music and culture.

KAL is unique in the so-called "Gypsy" fusion genre -pioneering the integration of traditional Romani folk music with hip and dynamic Western rock and roll, blues, jazz and Latin elements. To put all of this together without losing the heart and soul of traditional Romani ghetto music is no simple task.

Romani Routes is a program of Voice of Roma, an educational and charitable nonprofit organization working on behalf of Roma (Gypsies) in the US and internationally.

To book Kal for their Sept/Oct 2008 US Tour contact:

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KAL's funky sound describes a new, post-modern Rom identity that confronts romantic Gypsy clichés. Dragan Ristic, who founded the band with his brother Dushan, says, "We are not living in the past... I'm an urban person; belong to the modern world, [and] go to rave parties... so mixing traditional and urban elements is the best way of presenting our culture."

Beneficiaries of Yugoslavia's President Tito's aim of integrating Roma, the Ristic brothers' father encouraged them to take pride in their heritage while getting an education. Now, they are among the fortunate few able to cross between Rom (Gypsy) and Gadje (non-Rom) society. "No one believed in the ideal of Yugoslavia more than the Roma," Ristic says. "We so wanted to belong. The resulting collapse of the nation and all the nationalism has made us focus on what we are; not Yugoslavs, but Roma. Ironical that it takes war for us to push ourselves forward, huh? I ran Roma theatre companies in Belgrade and Budapest, achieved a lot, but realized that music remains a more powerful vehicle to articulate our culture."



Kal's 2006 CD on the world-music label, Asphalt Tango, brought them international recognition. In

2006 alone Kal performed approximately 100 concerts around the world in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Germany, Iceland, the UK, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia and the USA. Kal performed at the famous World Music Expo, "WOMEX" and in April 2006 Kal became the first Balkan/Roma band ever to capture number one on the "World Music Charts Europe" ([www.wmce.de](http://www.wmce.de)).



KAL, a young Romani (Gypsy) band whose self-titled album topped the European World Music Charts in April 2006, will be making its second tour of the United States in September/October 2008. Playing music from Bosnia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia and their home base in Serbia, the 7-piece band features a "dynamic blend of traditional instruments, rock'n'roll in attitude, fuelled on dance beats and rooted in the Balkan blues. In their wit, imagination, ability to throw disparate sounds together and refusal to play by "folkloric" rules, Kal mark themselves as both part of Balkan Gypsy tradition and 21st Century Roma cultural activists." (Garth

Cartwright, author of *Princes Among Men: Journeys*

with Gypsy Musicians)



**KAL band members:**

Dragan Ristic (guitar & lead vocal), Dragan Mitrovic (accordion), Jovica Maric (accordion & vocals), Djordje Belkic (violin), Aleksandar Cvejic (bass), Goran Savic (Drums) and Aleksandar Radojicic (percussion).