

Suggestions for Listening

In compiling this list, I have had a modest goal: to provide the written equivalent of a soundtrack for *Accordion Dreams*. These are personal selections rather than a comprehensive discography. But I hope they offer a good starting point for anyone who is new to the pleasures of Cajun and Creole music.

I have included selections by most of the musicians cited in *Accordion Dreams*—and, when possible, I have chosen recordings that include the songs mentioned in the book. Consequently, the albums I have listed may not be the most recent by a particular artist, nor do I claim they are “the best.” A number of groups (Beausoleil, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys, the Savoy family) have multiple recordings to their credit, with new albums appearing regularly. I would be hard-pressed to pick a favorite. Also, because this list reflects my musical influences during the period described in *Accordion Dreams*, it does not include a host of newer bands that have appeared in recent years.

Following the recordings by individual musicians/groups, I have included a list of a half-dozen compilations I have enjoyed, in the interest of providing a more comprehensive overview.

For more information about the history of Louisiana French music, profiles of older musicians, discographies, and traditional song lyrics, there is no better resource than Ann Savoy’s *Cajun Music: A Reflection of A People*. For an up-to-date guide to musicians who are currently active, I would suggest David Simpson’s excellent LSU-

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Eunice website: "Louisiana Contemporary Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco Musicians" at
www.lsu.edu/acadgate/music/musicmain.htm.

For information about bands outside Louisiana—especially the SF Bay Area—see
Andrea Rubinstein's Cajun-Zydeco Web Resources, at www.sfbayou.com. And if you'd
like to take a look—or a listen—to my own band, you'll find Sauce Piquante at
www.saucepiquanteband.com. But I hope you will begin with the traditional sources of
this music cited above.

Happy listening!

INDIVIDUAL MUSICIANS/GROUPS:

Abshire, Nathan. *Nathan Abshire: The Cajun Legend*. Swallow, 1994.

Ardoin, Amédé. *I'm Never Coming Back: Amédé Ardoin: Pioneer of Louisiana French
Blues 1930-34*. Arhoolie, 1995.

Balfa Brothers. *The Balfa Brothers Play Traditional Cajun Music, Volumes I and II*.
Swallow, 1991.

BeauSoleil. *Bayou Cadillac*. Rounder, 1989. Also see their many other albums.

Bois Sec Ardoin with Balfa Toujours: Allons Danser. Rounder, 1998

.Carrière Brothers and the Lawtell Playboys. *La-La: Louisiana Black French Music*.

Audiocassette. Maison de Soul, 1995. Includes Delton Broussard on accordion.

Cormier, Sheryl. *The Queen of Cajun Music*. Swallow, 1992.

Fontenot, Canray. *Louisiana Hot Sauce Creole Style*. Arhoolie, 1992.

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Frank, Keith. *The Creole Connection: The Masked Band*. Louisiana Red Hot, 2001.

Legé, Jesse, with Mack Manuel and the Lake Charles Ramblers. *Memoires du Passé*.
Swallow, 1997.

LeJeune, Eddie. *It's In the Blood*. Rounder, 1991.

LeJeune, Iry. *Cajun's Greatest—The Definitive Collection*. Ace (UK), 1992.

Les Frères Michot. *Elevés à Pilette*. LFM, 1996.

Magnolia Sisters. *Prends Courage*. Arhoolie, 1995. Also see their newer albums.

McGee, Dennis. *The Complete Early Recordings of Dennis McGee*. Yazoo, 1994.

Moreau, Jude, and the Bon Temps Playboys. *Retourner au les Vieux Temps*. Louisiana
Radio Records, 2002. With Edward Poullard on fiddle.

Poullard, Danny with the California Cajun Orchestra. *Nonc Adam Two Step*. Arhoolie,
1995.

Poullard, Danny with the California Cajun Orchestra. *Not Lonesome Anymore*.

Arhoolie, 1991. Winner of the first annual “Prix Dehors de Nous” awarded by the
Cajun French Music Association (CFMA) for best recording by a band outside
Louisiana.

Poullard, Danny with Edward Poullard and D'Jalma Garnier. *Poullard, Poullard &
Garnier*. Louisiana Radio Records, 2001. Danny Poullard playing in the old time
Creole style; released a few weeks before his death.

Riley, Steve and the Mamou Playboys. *Ti Galop Pour Mamou*. Rounder, 1992. Also
see their many other albums, especially two recent ones, *Bon Rêve* and *Dominos*.

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Savoy, Marc, Dewey Balfa, and D.L. Menard. *Under a Green Oak Tree*. Arhoolie, 1989.

Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band. *Home Music With Spirits*. Arhoolie, 1992. Also see their later recordings.

COMPILATIONS:

Cajun Dance Party: Fais Do-Do. Columbia, 1994. The earliest commercial recordings (1929-34) by Cleoma Breaux Falcon, Joseph Falcon, the Breaux Brothers, Amédé Ardoin and Dennis McGee, and others.

Cajun Music and Zydeco. Rounder, 1992. Inspired by photographer Philip Gould’s book by the same name. An appealing range of modern commercial recordings, alternates Cajun and zydeco tracks.

Cajun Social Music. Smithsonian-Folkways, 1990. Recorded live during a 1975 visit to Southwest Louisiana by French folklorist Gérard Dole. Includes Marc Savoy, Nathan Abshire, Nonc Allie Young, and others.

J’ai Été au Bal, Vol. 1 and 2. Arhoolie, 1990. Music from the acclaimed Les Blank documentary. Covers an impressive range of Cajun, Creole, and zydeco music. Vol. 1 includes a rare recording of Walter Mouton and the original “Allons à Lafayette” by Joseph and Cléoma Falcon.

Legendary Masters of Cajun and Creole Music: Les Haricots Sont Pas Salés. Cinq

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Planetes (France), 1997. Live recordings with a "house party" feeling by French documentary filmmaker Jean-Pierre Bruneau, from 1972 music sessions in the homes of Cajun and Creole musicians. Includes Cajun greats Dewey Balfa, Nathan Abshire, Dennis McGee, Shirley Bergeron; Creole masters Bois Sec Ardoin, Canray Fontenot, Bee and Freeman Fontenot.

Music from the Zydeco Kingdom. Rounder, 2000. Compiled by Michael Tisserand, who wrote *The Kingdom of Zydeco*. Like the book, it offers an excellent introduction to zydeco. Includes some early Creole recordings, but gives more attention to the modern zydeco sound.