

My Favorite CDs of 2002

by Dale "Le Blanc" Johnson (California)

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Dale is a regular reviewer for the Zyde-Zine and yearly contributes his "Favorites" list for your pleasure. Dale hosts the "Bayou Country" radio show on KVMR-FM Nevada City/Sacramento most Saturdays at 4 PM. KVMR is live on the Internet at <http://www.kvmr.org>.

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The following list represents my "favorite" releases in 2002. It reflects my musical taste and is not to be considered a list of the "best" releases, as that is in the "ear of the beholder" and is left to others.

Cajun and Creole

Jesse Legé & Edward Poullard, "Live at the Isleton Crawdad Festival"---A Louisiana Cajun and a Texas Creole make great music with the California Cajun All-Stars.

Morris & Dexter Ardoin, "Louisiana Cajun Creole Music" -- Wonderful old style Creole music with father on fiddle and son on accordion.

Basin Brothers, "Deux Violins" - Great listening as Al Berard brings back his band with a two-fiddle/no-accordion sound.

Amanda Shaw, "Little Black Dog" - This 11-year old Louisiana girl can play fiddle with the best of them. Remarkable!

Des Fais Do Do, "Eddie's Tire Service" - A band from the Netherlands pays tribute to Eddie LeJeune with nice Cajun music and a little bluegrass.

"Evangeline Made" - Well known non-Cajun musicians perform French music with top-notch Cajun bands.

"The Red Stick Ramblers" - A hot new string band plays Cajun, western swing, New Orleans traditional, jazz and a little gypsy.

"Allons Faire La Poussière Voler avec Jackie Caillier & The Cajun Cousins." - The dust does get "stirred up" with this great Cajun dance music and vocalist Ivy Dugas" six new songs.

The Cajun Coyotes, "live! In The Wine Country" - Very nice listening and dancing back-porch style music, without a drum.

Zydeco

River City Slim & The Zydeco Hogs, "Big Fun On The Hog Farm" - My favorite Zydeco release this year and the band is from Connecticut , not SW La.

Bonne Musique Zydeco, "Keep On Dancin'" - Easy listening music from southern California 's premier Zydeco band.

Swamp Pop

The Sensations, "Boogie On The Bayou" - Very nice music with lots of classic sounds and good swing.

Don Rich, "Come Back To Me" - One of the finest vocalists in the swamp pop world with a mix of classic sounds and swing.

Warren Storm, "Godfather of Swamp Pop" - Brother Storm is still at the top of his game after 50 years.

Compilations

"Cajun Music - The Essential Collection" - Eighteen great artists are presented on 19 cuts from the archives of Rounder Records with great liner notes.

Dave Petitjean, "Strictly Cajun" - Another hour long CD with thirty very funny Cajun jokes by the king of Cajun humor.

"Zydeco Music -- The Essential Collection" - Eleven great artists are presented on 17 cuts from the archives of Rounder Records with great liner notes.

"dat's ZYDECO" - Nice compilation of the best of "Old-Skool" Zydeco from the archives of Maison de Soul Records.

" Pure Swamp Pop Gold -- Vol. 1" - Nineteen cuts from the vaults of CSP Records provide "pure gold" listening.

Deuce of Hearts, "The Best of Deuce of Hearts" - The best of the three CDs released by the father and son team, Gary and Travis T.

-- Dale "LeBlanc" Johnson (dalejohn@oro.net)

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