

Dale "LeBlanc" Johnson, Nevada Radio, Sacramento

Des Fais Do-Do, "Eddie's Tire Service"

This release is for all of you out there who are fans of Iry LeJeune, his son Eddie LeJeune and their music. If you don't know of these incredible musicians you have yet to discover some of the best Cajun music ever. Iry met an untimely death at age 26 and Eddie carried on his music in the most passionate way of any Cajun musician I know of, until he also was lost at the too early age of 49, just two years ago. The band met Eddie in their home country, the Netherlands, and garnered an invitation from him to visit him at his "Eddie's Tire Service" near Crowley, Louisiana. They finally paid their own visit to Eddie's Tire Service in 1997; thus the CD title expresses their bond with Eddie LeJeune.

These guys can really play Cajun music, almost as if they are Cajuns. Bluegrass music is also part of their repertoire, as evidenced by the four cuts of that sort -- and the welcome presence of the mandolin and banjo. They do a terrific job on "Bosco Stomp," the "Danse de Mardi Gras," the romping mandolin infused instrumental "Reel de la joie" and "Les flammes d'enfer" (some good picking here). The most exquisite number is the waltz "Tee Mon," which features the duet vocals of two lovely ladies who are known as "Les Soeurs Mineures." Very special are the opening and ending cuts, which tell the story of the band's visit to see Eddie LeJeune perform at the Liberty Theater in Eunice. Finally, the liner notes and presentation are "leaps and bounds" above what is typical from SW Louisiana label issues. For example, the renowned Gary Hayman (who wrote part of the liner notes) is included in the picture of the band in front of the Liberty Theater -- and yes, he is about one foot shorter than the band members whom he described as being "very tall gentlemen."

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