

# DES FAIS DO-DO

## CAJUN & AMERICANA Festivals, Music Clubs And Special Events

Des Fais Do-Do is a folk music oriented band based in Enschede, a university city in the eastern region of the Netherlands, called "Twente". There are six people involved, most of them having a broad experience in bands since the beginning of the 1970's. The instrumentation consists of (French) accordions, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, acoustic guitar, bass and special percussion ('tit fer', spoons, rubboard, small drum kit. cajon), a perfect suite for *Cajun* and related styles of *roots* music, nowadays called *americana*.

In the early 1990s, Des Fais Do-Do started playing in regional bars with a refreshing form of Cajun music, originating from French immigrants in Louisiana, and americana *avant la lettre*. Through performances at (inter)national stages and festivals and thanks to three very well received CDs, Des Fais Do-Do has grown into a band that is renowned in these circles and that has acquired a unique position with its very own conception of music. This is demonstrated by a performance with the Cajun-legend D.L. Menard (who died in 2017) at his house in Louisiana and three gigs at the major Festival International Acadien-Cajun in Montreal (Canada) in 2004.

Des Fais Do-Do already performed four times at the world-renowned and Europe's biggest 'International Cajun&Zydeco Festival in Raamsdonksveer (NL) with famous bands all around the world (e.g. Fernest Arceneaux (USA), Blou (CDN), Chris Ardoin (USA) and Sean Vidrine (USA)). In 2003 they had a performance at the main stage on Friday as well as a continuing performance on Saturday evening at the cosy 'Eddie's Tire Service', a dance hall like food shed, especially named after their second album (see below). They also have performed at another famous European Cajun&Zydeco Festival in Saulieu in France. In Germany they have performed at the successful Cajun&Zydeco Music festivals in Unna and Baasem and at other festivals in Dresden, Cottbus and Fürth. Further, regular performances are in Belgium and Switzerland in roots oriented festivals.

Stimulated by the success in live performances Des Fais Do-Do has released two studio CDs, 'Mardi Blue Grass' in 1997 and 'Eddie's Tire Service' in 2002, distributed by Silvox/Coast to Coast in the Netherlands. The last one has been dedicated to the late Eddie Lejeune, who they visited at his tire service during an 'educational' tour in Louisiana in 1997. Special features of the CD are two pieces recorded during the performance of Eddie at the famous Liberty Theatre in Eunice, which they were invited to visit. Moreover, Gary Hayman, world famous because of his Cajun&Zydeco website, took

care of the liner notes, while Dan 'LeBlanc' Johnson, a famous Cajun music critic, elected the CD as the best foreign Cajun music CD in 2002. Songs of both these CDs has been released on some Cajun and country compilation CDs afterwards.

In 2004 Des Fais Do-Do received the first European award for the best Cajun&Zydeco band. The connected prize, a weekend in the brand new Swamp Studio in Raamsdonk, resulted in their third, with an audience recorded CD 'Des Fais Do-Do Live' with four favourite songs. In 2005, they were elected again, in this case as the best Cajun band.

The strong points of Des Fais Do-Do are the varied instrumentation and styles of songs in combination with the unflagging enthusiasm during the performance of fast or slow, solo- or many-voiced and cheerful or melancholy songs, to which can quietly be listened but on which is mostly danced, waltzed and jogged as well!

There exists a large Cajun&Zydeco scene in the Netherlands and Western Europe, ranging from bands which are more traditional acoustic Cajun to bands which integrate the (French) accordion in their more rock and blues oriented Zydeco music. Des Fais Do-Do distinguishes itself by a folky and acoustic approach which is somewhere 'in-between' the traditional and the rock approach, and by playing non-typical Cajun instruments such as the 5-string in typical, mostly well-known Cajun songs. For the americana the French accordion is exchanged for the keyboard accordion and sometimes the fiddle for the mandolin. This indicates how both styles can be united with each other while monotony has no chance at all!

### Des Fais Do-Do are:

Derk Habers	bass
Lucas Meertens	(french) accordions
Martin van Laar	banjo, percussion, harmony vocals
Henk Leeuwis	acoustic guitar, vocals
Bennie Stortelder	fiddle, mandolin, (harmony) vocals
Paul de Leeuw	drums, percussion

### Information:

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Spotify/iTunes /YouTube "des fais do-do"

## Discography

### Albums

DES FIAS DO-DO: MARDI BLUE GRASS / Silvox - FDD 971 / 1997

DES FAIS DO-DO: EDDIE'S TIRE SERVICE / Silvox - SIL 079 / 2002

DES FAIS DO-DO: LIVE / Swamp - 2005

### Samplers

CAJUN and Zydeco from EUROPE Volume I / Whoopee Records - WR 61453 / 2001: 'Les veuves de la coulée', 'Madeleine'

CAJUN and Zydeco from EUROPE Volume II / Whoopee Records - WR 61473 / 2003: 'You low-down dirty dog', 'Johnny peut pas danser'

International Cajun&Zydeco Festival Raamsdonksveer (NL) 2003: 'Bosco stomp'

International Cajun&Zydeco Festival Ameland (NL) 2004: 'You low-down dirty dog'

Dutch Country Special - Conamus / Mega Charts / OLON 2003: 'Get down river'

## Playlist

In the case of a 'normal' performance Des Fais Do-Do plays 2 to 3 sets and an encore (most of the times more!). Total time about 2 hours. Cajun, americana and folk are "mixed". Next to the songs on the albums the playlist is extended with (rather) known songs such as Do re mi, My toot-toot, Mazurka, Wagon wheel, Call me the breeze and Galway girl, and many other contagious, folky songs.

### MARDI BLUE GRASS / Silvox - FDD 971 / 1997

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 Les veuves de la coulée    | trad., arr. DFDD.  |
| 2 Parlez nous a boire        | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 3 Tennessee blues            | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 4 Travailler c'est trop d'ur | Z. Richard/Bayou de Mysteres (BMI)   |
| 5 La porte d'en arriére      | D.L. Menard/Flat Town Music (BMI)  |
| 6 Fallen eagle               | S. Stills/Gold Hill Music (BMI)  |
| 7 Je m'endors                | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 8 Under the stormy sky       | D. Lanois/Opal Music (ASCAP)   |
| 9 Mamou two-step             | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 10 The swimming song         | L. Wainwright/Snowden Music Inc. (ASCAP)   |
| 11 La valse de la bière      | A.F. Biggs, N.P. Thompson, S.J. Thompson, P.C. Marchant/ Soliton Records,<br>translation H. Leeuwis, H.H. Boer |
| 12 Johnny peut pas danser    | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 13 Can't you hear me callin' | B. Monroe/Unichappell Music Inc. (BMI)   |
| 14 Madeleine                 | trad., arr. DFDD   |
| 15 J'étais au bal            | trad., arr. DFDD   |

### EDDIE'S TIRE SERVICE / Silvox - SIL 079 / 2002

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|---------------------------|--|
| Prologue                  | From the broadcast "Rendez-vous des Cajuns" in Eunice Liberty Theatre, May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1997,<br>moderator Barry Ancelot  |
| 1 Bosco stomp             | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 2 Cold bed                | K. Russell, Krakatowa MCDinglefury World Publisher, Bumpalong Sod Music, BMI   |
| 3 Evangeline special      | I. LeJeune, Tek Music Co, BMI  |
| 4 Tee mon                 | I. LeJeune, Tek Music Co, BMI  |
| 5 Amedé two-step          | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 6 Do re mi                | W. Guthrie, Ludlow Music, BMI  |
| 7 La queue d'tortue       | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 8 Danse de mardi gras     | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 9 Reel de la joie         | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 10 L'anse au paille       | D. Balfa, Flat Town Music Co., BMI   |
| 11 Get down river         | B. Henneman, Bug Music, BMI  |
| 12 La valse criminelle    | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 13 You low down dirty dog | J.A. Ungar, Swinging Door Music, BMI   |
| 14 Equand j'étais pauvre  | D. Balfa, Flat Town Music Co., BMI   |
| 15 Melville two-step**)   | trad./arr. DFDD  |
| 16 Les femmes d'enfer     | A. Pitre, Flat Town Music Co., BMI   |
| Epilogue                  | J' etais au bal, Eddie LeJeune 'live' in the broadcast "Rendez-vous des Cajuns" in the Eunice<br>Liberty Theatre May 3, 1997 |

### DES FAIS DO-DO: LIVE / Swamp Muziek Studio- 2005

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1 Port Arthur blues          | trad./arr. DFDD / Tradition Music Co. (BMI) |
| 2 Under the stormy sky       | D. Lanois/Opal Music (ASCAP)                |
| 3 Travailler c'est trop d'ur | Z. Richard/Bayou de Mysteres (BMI)          |
| 4 Les flemmes d'enfer        | A. Pitre, Flat Town Music Co., BMI          |