

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet



New Release

FROM BAMAKO TO CARENCRO

COMPASS RECORDS – February 26, 2013

"That's my kind of music!"

- *Bob Dylan, upon listening to BeauSoleil during the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival*

"The remarkable thing about Cajun revivalists BeauSoleil is that...they are still inviting us to ask what's new. BeauSoleil isn't neo-anything. This ensemble finds freshness not by infusing vintage styles with contemporary sonics but with vibrant, thoughtful fusions. "

- *The Boston Globe*

"Cajun music purists admire the fiddler Michael Doucet's informed command of traditional Cajun music, while those who just want to party surrender to Beausoleil and boogie to classic Cajun two-steps, reels and a host of other rhythmic influences that have made this Grammy-winning Crescent City outfit one of the most colorful roots bands on the scene. Bon temps, every time they play. "

- *The New York Times*

Recent Festival Performances include: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Smithsonian Folklife Festival (Washington DC), Voodoo Fest (New Orleans), Merlefest (NC), Houston International Festival, TD Canada Trust Toronto Jazz Festival, On The Waterfront Festival (IL), Narrows Festival of The Arts (MA), Chandler Jazz Festival (AZ), Black Swamp Arts Festival (OH), Meltdown Festival (England) and many more

GRAMMY AWARDS - BEAUSOLEIL

2010 Nominee for *Alligator Purse* - Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album
- their 12th GRAMMY Nomination

2009 Winner for *Live at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival*
- Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album

1998 Winner for *L'Amour Ou La Folie* - Best Traditional Folk Album

GRAMMY AWARD – MICHAEL DOUCET

2009 Nomine for *From Now On* - Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album

OFFBEAT MAGAZINE BEST OF THE BEAT AWARDS

2012 Nominee - **Michael Doucet** - Best Violinist/Fiddler

2011 Winner - **BeauSoleil** - Best Cajun Artist

- an amazing 13th Award Win in this category

2010 Winner - *Alligator Purse* - Best Cajun Album

2009 Winner - **Michael Doucet** - Best Violinist/Fiddler

2011 Awarded **Best Non-European Cajun Band** in **The European Cajun and Zydeco Awards** in Cologne Germany (First time ever presented)

One of the most frequent guests on National Public Radio's legendary program, **A Prairie Home Companion**

Performed at **Super Bowl XXX Halftime Show** (1997)

Michael Doucet awarded **2007 United States Artists Fellowship** and **2005 National Heritage Fellowship** from the **National Endowment of the Arts**

2003 Featured in *Dancing To New Orleans*, a two hour **Bravo** television special

THE ROSEBUD AGENCY

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FROM BAMAKO TO CARENCRE

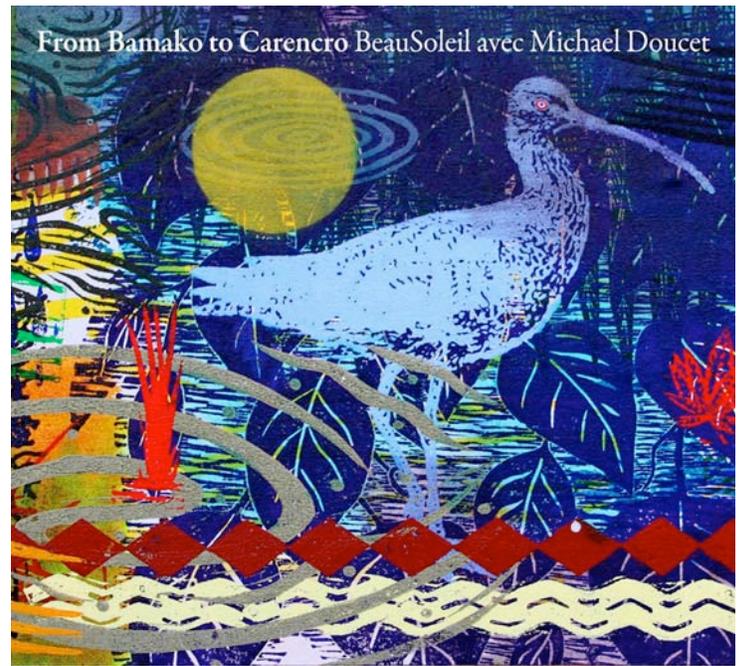
COMPASS RECORDS - February 26, 2013

***“The best Cajun band in the World!”
- Garrison Keillor, Prairie Home Companion***

***“BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet – they play
music that’s honest to the bone!”
- Allen Toussaint***

For the past 37 years, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet has been making some of the most potent and popular Cajun music on the planet. Born out of the rich Acadian ancestry of its members, and created and driven by bandleader Michael Doucet’s spellbinding fiddle playing and soulful vocals, BeauSoleil is notorious for bringing even the most staid audience to its feet. BeauSoleil’s distinctive sound derives from the distilled spirits of New Orleans jazz, blues rock, folk, swamp pop, Zydeco, country and bluegrass, captivating listeners from the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, to Carnegie Hall, then all the way across the pond to the Meltdown Festival in England.

For their first studio release in four years, and the 25th in their 37-year career, BeauSoleil teamed up with Nashville-based roots music label Compass Records. The band named the new album *From Bamako to Carencro*, a title that alludes to the cultural and migratory connection between Bamako, in Mali, West Africa, and Louisiana (symbolized in name by the Lafayette, LA. suburb of Carencro), a connection that draws a sonic bloodline back to BeauSoleil’s roots. On the album’s 11 tracks, the band performs with a resounding authenticity all the while bringing a refreshed playfulness to the genre—the fiddle, flat-picked guitar and accordion carry driving melodies over the two-step and waltz dance beats characteristic of their Cajun and Zydeco music, but not without the country, jazz and blues leanings that informed the genre in the 1920s. They channel the godfathers of other music as well by including a Cajun/La Lastyle reimagining of James Brown’s classic 1962 *Live at the Apollo* version of “I’ll Go Crazy” and a swing version of John Coltrane’s tune-de-force “Bessie’s Blues.” Guitarist David Doucet even tucks an occasional Lester Flatt-style bluegrass G-run into his highly melodic guitar solos.



Since becoming the first Cajun band to win a GRAMMY with *L’amour Ou La Folie* (Traditional Folk Album – 1998) and then a second Grammy in 2010, *Live at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival*, BeauSoleil has garnered many accolades, including twelve GRAMMY nominations, the latest being their 2009 release *Alligator Purse*. They are regular guests on Garrison Keillor’s National Public Radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, where Keillor has dubbed them as “the best Cajun band in the world,” and their music is so integral to the Cajun culture that they have been featured on the New Orleans-based hit HBO program *Treme*. (Look for an on-camera performance from the band this year during the final season of the show). Critics unanimously agree that it is “bon temps, every time they play,” (*New York Times*).

“We’ve recorded a lot of albums, yet we always seem to come up with new songs saying things that haven’t been said,” comments bandleader Michael Doucet, “The diversity is really what excites me about this record – it’s nothing like we’ve done before and the songs are played only as we could play them. And it’s not just your smiling ‘let’s go eat some crawfish,’ Cajun album. We’re getting deeper into the layers in the psyche of the culture. It’s maturation.” The tracks taken from the album title, “Bamako,” a track contributed by the esteemed trombonist Roswell Rudd as a tribute to the people of Mali, and “Carencro,” a story about two French Louisiana lovers with bad timing and murderous intentions, again support Doucet’s message that “it takes all kinds to make a culture’s history survive.”

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The Boston Globe brilliantly noted that, “the remarkable thing about Cajun revivalists BeauSoleil is that they are still inviting us to ask what’s new. BeauSoleil isn’t neo-anything. This ensemble finds freshness not by infusing vintage styles with contemporary sonics, but with vibrant, thoughtful fusions.” Indeed their presentation of newness and reverence of tradition is the heart of the band. “People know Cajun music being from Southwest Louisiana and because of the longitude and the latitude but it has influences form all over: Nova Scotia, France, Delta Blues, the islands, and the traditional improvisational aspects of New Orleans. We’re always pushing that envelope,” comments Doucet, “All the songs are different – there aren’t two songs that sound remotely alike though they are played with the same set of instruments. That comes from these rebellious hearts that we always had. We’ve always taken chances. To attempt to create great music of any kind, one has to take chances.”

Though fascinated by music of all kinds, Michael Doucet is defined by his deep connection with, and dedication to, the music of the sacred French-Cajun culture. A Folk Arts Apprenticeship from the National Endowment of the Arts spurred Doucet to seek out every surviving Cajun musician and learn from them in person; he studied genre fathers Dewey Balfa, Dennis McGee, Sady Courville, Luderin Darbone, Varise Connor, Canaray Fontenot and many others, even inspiring some to return to publicly performing. In 2005 the National Endowment of the Arts again recognized Doucet’s integral involvement with the Cajun world, awarding him the esteemed National Heritage Fellowship as well as the United States Artists Fellowship in 2007.

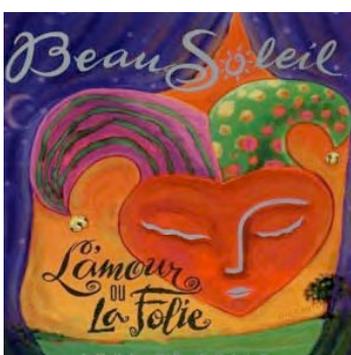
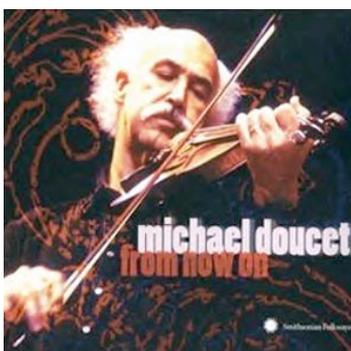
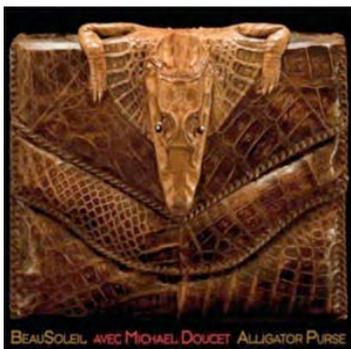
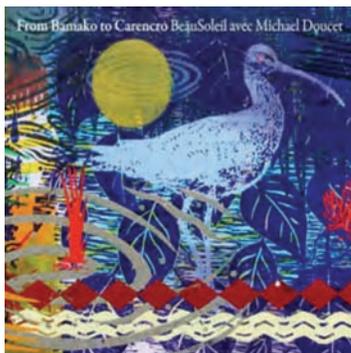
Doucet has gained acclaim by developing his own flavor of Cajun music and he and his band represent many ‘firsts’ for the genre. Early on they focused on the lead and twin fiddle styles of the originals of Acadian folk music over the more popular 1920s adoption of the German diatonic accordion. They performed with the communal integrity characteristic of early Cajun music, choosing to perform unplugged like a group of friends playing together in a Louisiana living room, rather than plugging in. They broke ground as the first band to feature an acoustic guitar as the lead instrument, replacing the lead accordion or steel guitar. They were the first to include the frottoir, the rub board borrowed from Cajun music’s Zydeco cousin, and they were the first to feature a female vocalist. All of these innovations were fueled by Doucet’s determination to rejuvenate Cajun and zydeco music, breathing into it a new relevance.

Indeed the band has achieved that goal and more, furthering the legacy and understanding of this unique American subculture, performing in every state of the Union and in 33 countries. “When we first started, we were fortunate to have these great master musicians like Dennis McGee still living. We were able to play with them and hang out with them. Some of them were born before 1900. Now we’re the elders and that’s scary, as you can imagine,” reflects Doucet, “However we’re pretty proud of the voice that we’ve produced on this record as far as the watermark. You do what you feel and what you believe in. We pushed the envelope just for the hell of it and that’s just who we are. And you can dance to it at the same time.”



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DISCOGRAPHY

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From Bamako To Carencro (2013)

Alligator Purse (2009)

Grammy Nominee

Live at the 2008 New Orleans
Jazz & Heritage Festival (2008)

Grammy Winner

Live in Louisiana (2006)

Live From The New Orleans
Jazz & Heritage Festival (2005)

Gitane Cajun (2004)

Grammy Nominee

Encore Encore the Best of
Beausoleil (1991 – 2001) (2003)

Looking Back Tomorrow: Beausoleil Live!

Grammy Nominee (2001)

Best of the Crawfish Years (2001)

Cajunization (1999)

Grammy Nominee

L'Amour ou la Folie (1997)

Grammy Winner

The Best of BeauSoleil (1997)

Arc De Triomphe Two-Step (1997)

L'Echo (1994)

Grammy Nominee

Vintage Beausoleil (1994)

La Danse De La Vie (1993)

Grammy Nominee

Bayou Deluxe: The Best Of
Michael Doucet & Beausoleil (1993)

Rainbow Sign (1992)

Cajun Conja (1991)

Grammy Nominee

J'Ai Ete Au Bal (1990)

Déjà vu (1990)

Cajun Jam Session (1989)

Live From Left Coast (1989)

Bayou Cadillac (1989)

Grammy Nominee

Hot Chili Mama (1988)

Cajun Experience (1988)

Belizaire The Cajun (1987)

Grammy Nominee

Bayou Boogie (1986)

Allons A Lafayette (1986)

Zydeco Gris Gris (1985)

Grammy Nominee

Louisiana Cajun Music (1984)

Parlez Nous Au Boire (1984)

The Spirit of Cajun Music (1976)

Michael Doucet

From Now On (2008)

Grammy Nominee

The Mad Reel (reissue) (1994)

Le Hoogie Boogie: Louisiana French
Music For Children (1992)

J'Ai Ete Au Bal (1990)

Beau Solo (1993)

Cajun Jam Session: with Poullard &
Senauke (1989)

Michael Doucet & Cajun Brew (1988)

Allons A Lafayette (1988)

Cajun Experience: with P. Daigle &
R. Elkins (1988)

Christmas Bayou (1986)

Dit Beausoleil (1983)

Cajun Jam Sessions: Live (1983)

David Doucet

1957: Solo Cajun Guitar (1999)

Quand J'Ai Parti (1989)

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