

ALLEN TOUSSAINT

SONGBOOK

Rounder Records, September 24, 2013

- ★ **2013 GRAMMY nominee** (2 separate nominations) - Best Americana Album for *Songbook* and Best Americana Roots Song for "Shrimp Po-Boy Dressed"
- ★ **2013 New Orleans Music Legends Park Inductee**
- ★ **2013 National Medal of Arts Honoree** under President Obama
- ★ **2012 Blues Hall of Fame Inductee** - on May 9, 2012
- ★ **2010 GRAMMY Nominee** - Best Jazz Instrumental Album
- ★ **Downbeat Magazine's Best of the 2000's** for *The Bright Mississippi*
- ★ **NPR's World Cafe: among the top 10 Albums of 2009** for *The Bright Mississippi*
- ★ **The Best Record of the Year - French Jazz Academy** for *The Bright Mississippi*
- ★ ***The Bright Mississippi* Among the year's best per The London Times, Village Voice, Chicago Tribune and Associated Press**

"when I meet someone like Allen Toussaint - that for me is like meeting, you know, someone the equivalent of the Dalai Lama because for me, he influenced the way I played the piano, he's a historical part of rock and roll."

- *Elton John on Elvis Costello's Spectacle*

2013 Featured on **Will Lee's** (longtime bassist of the **Late Show with David Letterman**) album, *Love, Gratitude and Other Distractions*, alongside **ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons** on Lee's cover of Allen's tune, "Get Out My Life Woman"

2013 Featured on **John Fogerty's** album, *Wrote A Song For Everyone*, alongside both **Jennifer Hudson** and **Rebirth Brass Band** on the track "Proud Mary"

2013 Received an **Honorary Doctorate Degree** from **Tulane University** along with **Dr. John**, **The Dalai Lama** and Pulitzer Prize winner, **Natasha Trethewey**, at Tulane's May commencement ceremony



2013 All-star line-up including **Elvis Costello, Dr. John, Irma Thomas, Trombone Shorty, Joe Sampley, Joe Henry, Cyril Neville, Deacon John, and Jon Cleary** performed for Allen's 75th Birthday Tribute Concert benefiting **New Orleans Artists Against Hunger & Homelessness**, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Allen with **Aaron Neville**

2012 Worldwide Grammy Broadcast of the **Tribute to Glen Campbell** included **Blake Shelton** singing "Southern Nights," written by **Allen Toussaint** (and later recorded by Campbell)

2013 – 2013 DownBeat Readers & Critics Poll - ranked among the Best Arrangers in both polls each year

2010 DownBeat Readers Poll - Allen was honored among the year's best - Best Blues Album - #2, Best Jazz Album - #9, Best Beyond Album - #5 and Best Arranger - #4

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2010 Offbeat Best of The Beat Awards - Winner - Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Best Traditional Jazz Album, Best Piano/Keyboardist

Featured on **Cyndi Lauper's** DVD/CD *To Memphis, With Love*. Allen also joined Cyndi Lauper on **The Rosie Show (hosted by Rosie O'Donnell)** which aired on **Oprah Winfrey Network**, November 2011

Austin City Limits January 2010 - Entire Program Devoted to Allen's Performance

Featured guest on **Eric Clapton's** CD, *Clapton*, released September 2010

Supported **Neil Young** on select dates of his solo tour September 2010

Featured on **HBO's** Emmy Award nominated hit series, *Treme*, playing himself

Featured guest on **Trombone Shorty's** *Backatown* CD on a cover of Allen's own song "On Your Way Down"

Featured Appearances on **Elvis Costello's** *Spectacle* on the **Sundance Channel**: Allen was a special musical guest in the premier episode with **Elton John** and was featured in a second episode along with **Levon Helm**, **Nick Lowe** and **Richard Thompson**

Featured guest on **Cyndi Lauper's** album of blues covers, *Memphis Blues* released June 2010 and performed as a featured guest with her band on *the Late Show with David Letterman* June, 2010

Featured performing his "**From A Whisper To A Scream**" on the 2010 Grammy Nominated *True Blood* Soundtrack

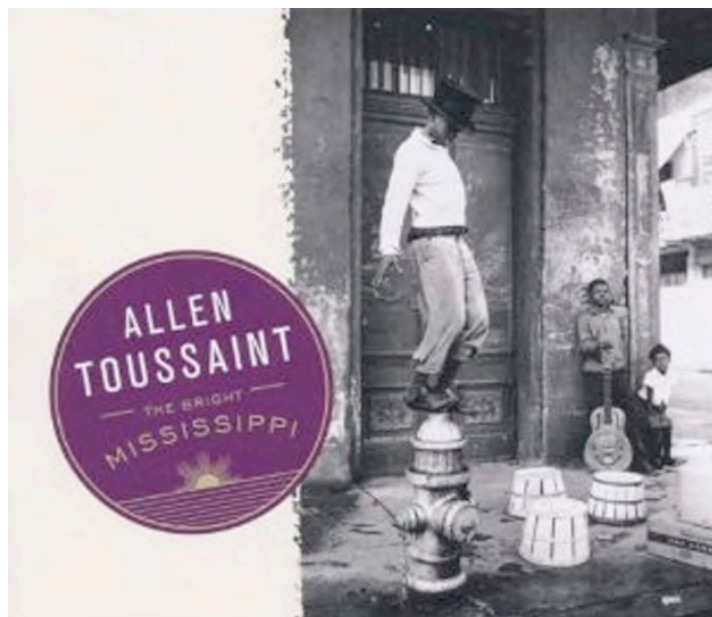
2009 Grammy Trustees Award Honoree

2009 Louisiana Music Hall of Fame Inductee

2007 Grammy Nominee with Elvis Costello for Best Pop Vocal Album - *The River In Reverse*

1998 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee

Collaborations with / songs covered by **Elvis Costello, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Band, Paul McCartney, Jerry Garcia, Phish, Plant / Krauss** and scores of others



THE BRIGHT MISSISSIPI

"Mr. Toussaint brings to these songs his own elegant, reserved sensibility... This is a jazz record for people who think they don't like jazz..."

- *The New York Times*

"Pure Ellington and Monk, as well as pure Toussaint, emotionally and structurally expansive, yet as keenly done as one of Toussaint's perfectly knotted ties."

- *Will Hermes, Rolling Stone*

"When asked about Allen Toussaint, Van Dyke Parks once said, 'he's the greatest piano player alive, only no one knows it...including him.' High praise from one legend to another."

- *Mike Perciaccante, All About Jazz*

"Albums such as this serve to remind us how much pop across the Western world owes to New Orleans."

- *John Bungey, The Times (London) ★★★★★*

"Jazz albums don't come much better."

- *Mat Snow, MOJO ★★★★★*

"Allen Toussaint is the jewel in New Orleans's crown, not merely the most distinctive of soul songwriter/producers, but a virtuoso piano stylist with an unparalleled knowledge of the city's musical development."

- *Independent (London) ★★★★★*

"Toussaint sounds as eternal as New Orleans...Whether he's reworking Ellington, Bechet or Reinhardt, Toussaint infuses the numbers with his own elegant funk, particularly evident in his piano work, never so varied and flowing."

- *Milo Miles on Fresh Air, NPR*

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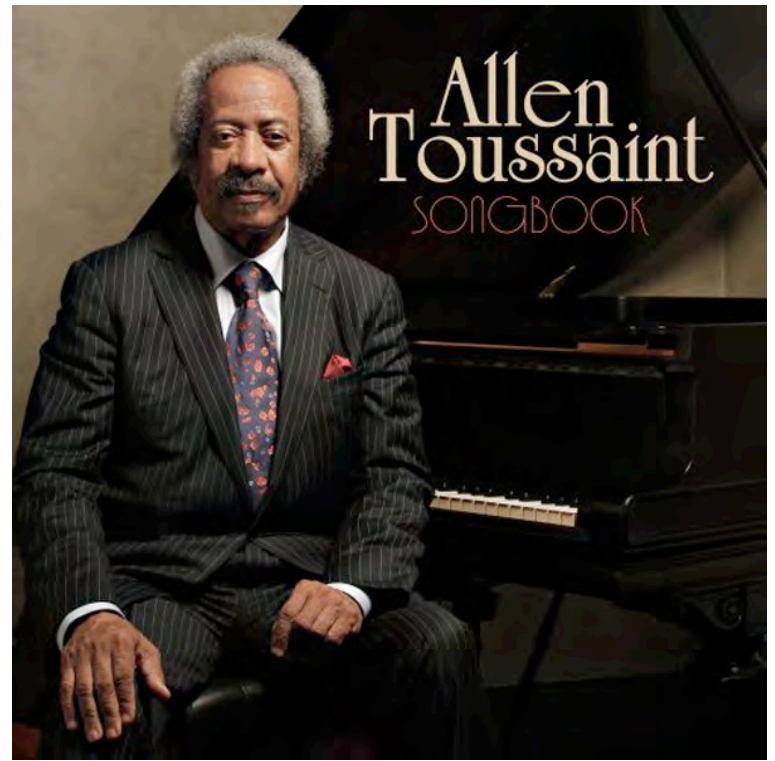
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ALLEN TOUSSAINT

SONGBOOK

ROUNDER RECORDS

**New Orleans Music Legend Allen Toussaint
Reveals Songbook; Solo Set On CD And DVD To
Be Released On Rounder September 24, 2013 DVD
Includes In-Studio Interview**



July 3, 2013: On September 24, 2013, Rounder will release **Allen Toussaint's *Songbook***, featuring performances of twenty five of Toussaint's songs captured on CD and DVD. The album and accompanying DVD were recorded over two nights in the fall of 2009 at venerable New York City nightspot **Joe's Pub**. The DVD includes an in-depth interview with Toussaint, conducted by producer (and longtime friend) **Paul Siegel**.

The Rounder release will offer a deluxe version which will include a CD with 25 songs and a 90-minute DVD that features the second of two live performance filmed at Joe's Pub in September 2009, plus a 25-minute studio interview; and a standard CD that offers 12 of Toussaint's classic compositions interpreted by the legendary songsmith himself.

The list of those who have benefited in one way or another from Allen Toussaint's touch is staggering in its historic and stylistic range, stretching from the late 1950s to the present day, with no end in sight. His studio productions have sold millions of discs and downloads. His catalog of songs has generated hits on the pop, R&B, country and dance charts, and many remain on heavy rotation in various radio formats. His tunes continue to pop up as TV themes and advertising jingles. He has an ever-growing international circle of fans, and though previously reluctant to tour, in recent years he's become a more familiar figure at music festivals and popular nightclubs around the world.

Though Toussaint has begun to travel far and wide as of late, he never stays away from New Orleans for long - and his music never does. In so many ways, his enduring career -- as this collection so vividly illustrates -- serves as an ongoing tribute to the city of his birth.

In the last fifteen years, Toussaint has experienced a growing resurgence of activity and recognition. Since '96, he's recorded seven albums and collaborated with the likes of **Elvis Costello** and **Eric Clapton**. He's been Grammy® nominated and inducted into a number of Halls of Fame. He's been sampled by such hip-hop heavyweights as **O.D.B.**, **Biz Markie**, **KRS One** and **OutKast**, and appeared nationally on TV and radio - often on the urging of such longtime fans as **Paul Shaffer** and **Harry Shearer**, and most recently on the HBO series *Treme*.

With a honed sense of dry humor, Toussaint calls 2005's Hurricane Katrina his booking agent, crediting the storm for rebooting his career as a performer after flooding him out of home and studio. In order to recover - financially, musically, spiritually - Toussaint relocated to New York City and began to perform solo concerts, using Joe's Pub on Lafayette Street as a home base. Buoyed by a groundswell of support, he worked at something that years of success in the studio had allowed him to avoid: getting truly comfortable on the stage by himself, laying claim to his own songs.

Modesty had a lot to do with it; Allen Toussaint still is not the first person one would go to for information on Allen Toussaint. "I'm not accustomed to talking about myself," he once explained during a gig, "I talk in the studio with musicians. Or through my songs."

But over time, Toussaint developed his act - resurrecting material he hadn't touched in years, taking chances and improvising on established melodies, weaving personal anecdotes into his stage patter. He laced his music with memories of street characters and soul sisters, funky clubs and big-time successes. His show became his story, and his story came together and began to flow - which brings us to the musical treasure before you.

The what, when and how of this collection is comprehensively explained by its creator Paul Siegel - a veteran video producer, and lifelong enthusiast of Toussaint's work. As this DVD is an important historical document and an overdue personal testament from a musical genius to his fans, it also stands as a tribute to Siegel's passion for a man who - like too many of New Orleans's heroes - often evades the national radar.

Nearly eight years after Katrina, New Orleans continues to recover, and Toussaint has returned permanently to the city he never truly left. Give him the heat and the humidity, the spice and the rice, the funky sound of a Second Line and the cool feel of a southern night. "I apologize," Toussaint sings, "to anyone who can truly say that he has a found a better way."

*Abridged, from notes by Ashley Kahn, May 2013

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ALLEN TOUSSAINT: SONGBOOK TRACK LISTING

CD

1. It's Raining
2. Lipstick Traces
3. Brickyard Blues
4. With You In Mind
5. Who's Gonna Help Brother Get Further?
6. Sweet Touch of Love
7. Holy Cow
8. Get Out My Life, Woman
9. Freedom for the Stallion
10. St. James Infirmary
11. Shrimp Po Boy (Dressed)
12. Soul Sister
13. All These Things
14. We Are America/Yes We Can
15. Optimism Blues
16. Old Records Certain Girl Medley: Certain Girl /
Mother-in-Law / Fortune Teller / Working in a Coal Mine
17. New Orleans Thing
18. Crawfish, Everyday
19. No Place Like New York
20. Southern Nights

DVD

1. It's Raining
2. Lipstick Traces
3. Brickyard Blues
4. With You In Mind
5. Who's Gonna Help Brother Get Further?
6. Sweet Touch Of Love
7. Holy Cow
8. Get Out My Life, Woman
9. St. James Infirmary
10. Shrimp Po Boy (Dressed)
11. Soul Sister
12. All These Things
13. We Are America/Yes We Can
14. Old Records
15. Lover Of Love
16. Certain Girl Medley: Certain Girl / Mother-in-
Law / Fortune Teller / Working In A Coal Mine
17. New Orleans Thing
18. Crawfish, Everyday
19. No Place Like New York
20. Southern Nights
21. Freedom For The Stallion

ALLEN TOUSSAINT SONGBOOK

PRESS QUOTES

“a genius armed with a piano, sweet vocals and a lifetime of emotional anecdotes... he brings his own sophistication and polish to everything he plays, so his music is more refined than rowdy. This is especially true on the album’s final cut: a 12-minute version of “Southern Nights” that is one of the most powerful roots-music recordings I’ve ever heard... This is the type of art that makes us proud that President Obama recently presented Toussaint with the National Medal of Arts.”

- *DownBeat*

“Toussaint's modesty belies the brilliance of his solo performances. Accompanying himself on piano, where he develops counterpoint melodies and cross-currents of rhythm that suggest three people are sitting at the instrument instead of just one, Toussaint sings in a high, mellifluous voice that epitomizes New Orleans soul. Some of the best performances from his extended Joe's Pub residency are preserved on a recent album, "Songbook" (Rounder), another landmark in a career full of them.”

- *Chicago Tribune*

“All of these words don’t even begin to describe the mastery of piano, on a beautiful Steinway & Sons piano, no less, that he displays throughout the concerts collated here for a single release... There is fire and finesse in his playing, not an easy task to present both combined... It’s a tribute to the boiling pot of musical heritage that envelops New Orleans, but also to America at large, by paying homage to an era of songsmiths who weren’t just seeking a hit record but who wrote tunes because they told a great story and married them to memorable melodies.”

- *American Songwriter*

“Toussaint's voice sounds smooth and silky -- he in no way seems as if he's in his seventies -- and his piano is similarly nimble as it glides from signature New Orleans stride and boogie to sophisticated, elegiac chords.”

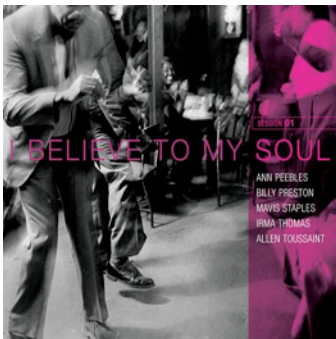
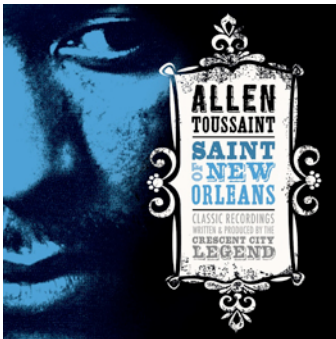
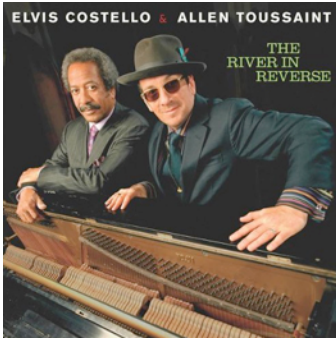
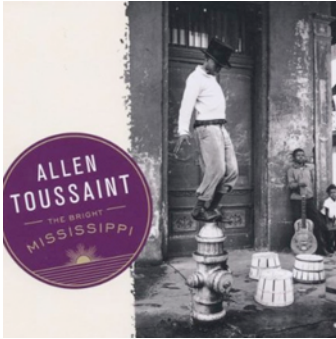
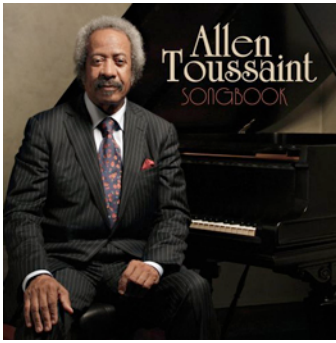
- *All Music Guide*

“Allen Toussaint, 75, has written, arranged, or played on every R&B song you've ever loved.”

- *Esquire*

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DISCOGRAPHY

Songbook (2013)

GRAMMY Nominated

The Bright Mississippi (2009)

GRAMMY Nominated

Saint of New Orleans (2009)

Songs written and produced by Allen Toussaint, Performed by Allen & Various Artists

The River In Reverse (2006)

GRAMMY Nominated

with Elvis Costello

Live At Jazz Fest (2007)

What Is Success: The Scepter & Bell Recordings (2007)

I Believe To My Soul (2005)

Various Artists

Going Places (2005)

The Complete Warner Recordings (2005)

Finger Poppin' And Stompin' Feet: 20 Classic Allen Toussaint Productions For Minit Records 1960-1962 (2002) *Various Artists*

A Taste Of New Orleans (1999)

Christmas In New Orleans (1997)

Connected (1996)

Mr. New Orleans (1995)

The Allen Toussaint Collection (1991)

From A Whisper To A Scream (1970)

Motion (1978)

Southern Nights (1975)

Life, Love and Faith (1972)

The Wild Sound Of New Orleans: The Complete 'Tousan' Sessions (1958)

SELECTED COVERS

"A Certain Girl" The Yardbirds, Warren Zevon

"Fortune Teller" Robert Plant & Alison Krauss

"Freedom for the Stallion"

Boz Scaggs, Three Dog Night

"From A Whisper To A Scream" Robert Plant

"Get Out of My Life, Woman"

The Paul Butterfield Blues Band, Iron Butterfly, Jerry Garcia Band, The Doors, The Derek Trucks Band

"Going Down Slowly"

Bo Diddley, The Pointer Sisters

"Happiness" The Pointer Sisters

"Hello My Lover" Boz Scaggs

"Hercules" Paul Weller, Aaron Neville

"Holy Cow" The Band

"Java" Al Hirt, The Beautiful South

"Night People" Robert Palmer

"Occapella" Van Dyke Parks, Ringo Starr

"On Your Way Down"

Little Feat, The Tommy Talton Band, Phish, Widespread Panic, Trombone Shorty

"Optimism Blues" Helen Reddy

"Play Something Sweet (Brickyard Blues)"

Maria Muldaur, Frankie Miller, Three Dog Night, B.J. Thomas

"River Boat" Van Dyke Parks, Robert Plant

"Sneakin' Sally Through The Alley"

Robert Plant, Ringo Starr, Phish, Tishamingo

"Southern Nights" Glen Campbell

"What Do You Want the Girl to Do?"

Boz Scaggs, Lowell George

"What Is Success" Bonnie Raitt

"Working in the Coal Mine" Lee Dorsey, Devo

"Yes We Can Can" The Pointer Sisters

"You See Me" The Band

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