

CAJUN ROOSTERS

AWARD WINNING CAJUN & ZYDECO MUSIC FROM LOUISIANA

Chris Hall
accordion, vocals

David Buyle
fiddle, vocals, e-guitar

Hazel Scott
vocals, guitar, rubboard

Michael Bentele
bass

Antoine Fève
drums



The Cajun Roosters are a five piece band specialising in the music of SW Louisiana, deep in the South of the USA.

Five gifted musicians from five different countries all devoted to Cajun and Zydeco music.

Over the last few years a new sound has been gaining momentum here in Europe. More and more bands have been visiting these shores bringing a new sound from over the atlantic ocean. This music is using familiar instruments like guitars, accordions and fiddles played in a way that is fresh and vibrant. Its home is in swamps and prairies of Southwest Louisiana but bands from over the seas are finding a warm welcome in clubs and festivals 3000 miles away from their roots. The music isn't new of course, its traditions are centuries old but to many people here in Europe it comes like a breath of fresh air. With its driving beat, heartfelt emotions, and trance like melodies it strikes a chord with 21st century ears.

This music is called Cajun and Zydeco music and just like in the 1960's with the blues, European bands are taking it and honouring its traditions whilst at the same time giving it a new twist. One of the main bands in Europe promoting this music are The Cajun Roosters. We aren't from Louisiana but we play respect to its masters and our heroes. We dig deep into its roots (some of us in this band have been digging now for over 30 years!) and aim to share our love of this unique sound.

So who are The Cajun Roosters? Formed eight years ago by some of the most respected musicians of this genre they quickly established a reputation as the band most likely to bring this music to a wider public. They were picked up by Mark Lamarr and invited to be in session on his BBC show for Radio 2 "Gods jukebox". Previous to this UK based accordion player and vocalist Chris Hall was invited to record with the likes of Kate Bush and Bill Wyman and also recorded and appeared on TV with ex Beatle and rock god Sir Paul McCartney.

The band has been performing all over Europe as well as in Indonesia at the Worldmusic Festival SimFes in Sawahlunto/Sumatra.

Their latest projects in the making alongside tours with major Louisiana acts was their sixth CD **'Hell Yeah !' (released oct 2013)** showcasing the recent multi-talented line-up for the first time. **CD "hell yeah!" WINS FIRST PRIZE for 'Best CD from a Non-Louisiana Band at the CFMA Awards in Louisiana August 2014.**

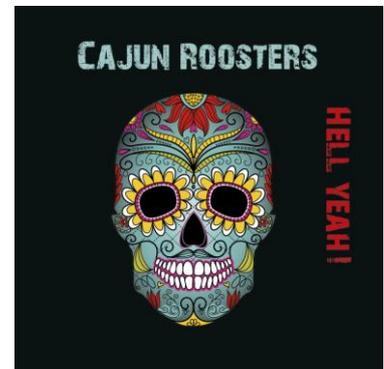
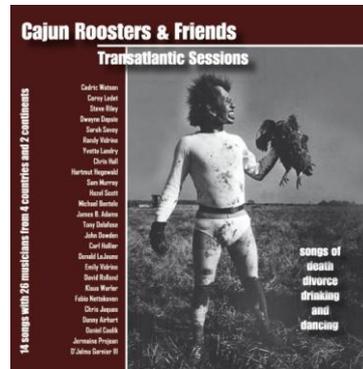
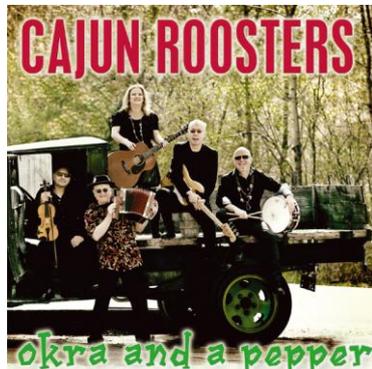
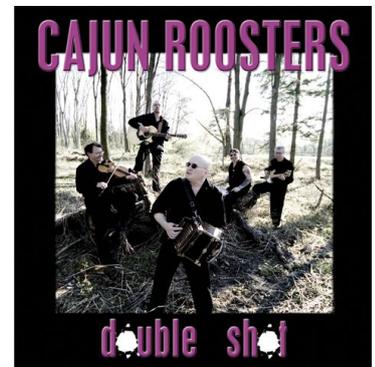
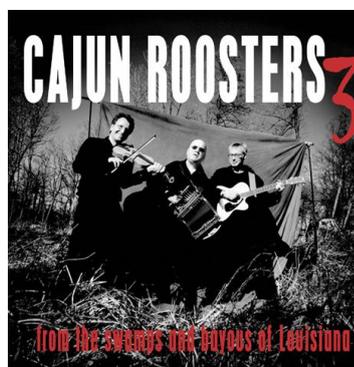
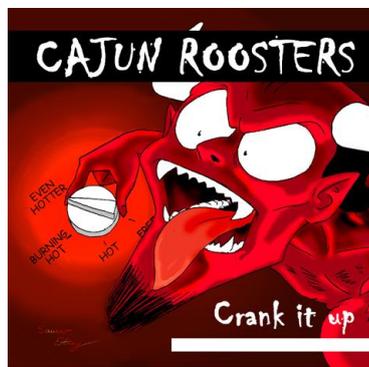
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CDs



Their **first CD 'Crank it up'** recorded in Munich received rave reviews and picked up many radio and TV appearances! Down home, dirty, and dangerous Cajun & Zydeco recorded with passion to honour the Louisiana Masters.

The **follow up CD 'Double Shot'** recorded in Dortmund and Derby/UK and released in November 2008 cemented their reputation as supreme 'swamp meisters' of the Cajun groove!

March 2011 marks the release of the **fourth CD: 'okra and a pepper'**

Nov 2011 release: **Cajun Roosters & friends - songs of death, divorce, drinking and dancing**

Oct 2013 marks the release of 'Hell Yeah' with rave reviews and winning the 2014 CFMA Award in Louisiana for 'Best CD from a non-Louisiana Band'.

Songlines Magazin (England) Jan-Feb 2015:

...world class musician ship....Hell yeah is a must for any hoedown or trip to the swamp...

fRoots Magazin (England) jan-feb 2015:

...the Roosters combine a potent punch with the authenticity that comes from high-neck immersion in regional culture....Top quality stuff...

AWARDS

CFMA-Award in Lafayette/Louisiana:

2014: CD "hell yeah!" WINS FIRST PRIZE for 'Best CD from a Non-Louisiana Band

2012: CD "okra and a pepper" 1st runner-up for 'Best Cajun CD from outside Louisiana'.

2009: CD "Double Shot" 1st runner up for 'Best Cajun CD from outside Louisiana'

2009: CD "From the swamps and bayous of Louisiana" 2nd runner up for 'second best Cajun CD from outside Louisiana'

NB 2009 Award:

The only time in CFMA history a band has taken 2nd AND 3rd place for this award.

2007: CFMA-Award in Lafayette/Louisiana: CD "Crank it up" 1st runner-up for 'Best Cajun CD from outside Louisiana'.

The Band received several awards 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 at the European Cajun & Zydeco Awards in Raamsdonksveer/NL:

,European Cajun & Zydeco Awards' in Raamsdonksveer/NL gewonnen:

2009, 2008,2007,2006: Best European Cajun Band

2009, 2008,2007,2006: Chris Hall: Best European Cajun Accordion player

2009: Chris Hall: Best European Zydeco Accordion player

2006: CD "Crank it up": Best European Cajun CD

2008: Cajun Rosters3: 'from the swamps and Bayous of Louisiana:

1. runner up 'Best European Cajun CD'

2009,2008: Hartmut Hegewald: 1.runner-up 'Best European Cajun Fiddler'

2007: David Buyle: 'Best European Cajun Fiddler'

2009: Sam Murray: 2.Platz 'Best European rubboard player'

PRESSQUOTES

Songlines Magazin (England) Jan-Feb 2015:

...world class musician ship....Hell yeah is a must for any hoedown or trip to the swamp...

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Larry G. Miller, Chairman Prix d' Hors Committee (June 2014)

CD Hell Yeah! wins First Price at CFMA Awards

Dear Cajun Roosters, Congratulations, you have earned the top score with your CD... "HELL YEAH!" in the "Prix d'Hors de Nous" category of the 2014 annual "Le Cajun" Music Awards.

Trowbridge Festival UK

"If you're looking for Cajun / Zydeco then look no further than Cajun Roosters - we booked them because they're the best in the business - we love 'em"

Christine Briars, Festival Director, Trowbridge Village Pump Festival, UK

Neu-Ulmer Zeitung, Ulmer Zelt,

Cajun Roosters fans response was overwhelming.... great feedback from 400 people at Ulmer Zelt, the Cajun Roosters are masters of their trade...

bluerhythm magazine

...templates from the old testament of cajun, blues from the legendary Excello label, stomping zydeco and a honky-tonk in 50's style.... with their well chosen classics and own repertoire this five piece band delivers a great swamp sound...

Memminger Zeitung

... a very long, a very hot evening - and a musical highlight

Celle'sche Zeitung

The Cajun Roosters performed their music with enthusiasm and in a very good mood

Ripley Blues Club (Ripley,UK)

Finger lickin good... A little lovin' gets you through the night.

Next two songs were an absolut blast...ultra funky, with a different sounding accordion.

Their version of 'Baby please don't go' was unbelievable. Best version I've ever heard...

bluesnews:

...the Cajun Roosters perform their very authentic mix of cajun with a side order of zydeco, swamp pop and swamp blues, and the listener feels as if they are in a dance club in Louisiana...

FESTIVALS

Regular gigs at clubs, venues and openair throughout Europe

• SimFes, Sawahlunto (Indonesia)	• Skagen Folkfestival (DK)
• TFF Rudolstadt (D)	• Donauinsel Festival, Vienna (A)
• Ilawa Jazzfestival (PI)	• All American Music Festival (LUX)
• Burghausen Jazz Festival (D)	• Bietigheim Jazz festival (D)
• Lichtensteig Jazz Festival (CH)	• Breda Jazz Festival (NL)
• Blues Festival, Eutin (D)	• American Roots Festival, Sint-Eloois Winkel (B)
• Gronau Jazz Festival (D)	• Füssen Jazz festival (D)
• Kempton Jazz festival (D)	• Ulmer Zelt (D)
• Broadstairs Folk Festival (GB)	• Piacenza Folk festival (I)
• Trowbridge Village Pump Folk Festival (GB)	• Grünberg Folkfestival (D)
• Tollwood Summer/Winter Festival, München (D)	• Festival du Culture (LUX)
• Ingolstadt Blues Festival (D)	• Nottingham Riverside Carnival (GB)
• Louisiana Night, Schlachthof, München, (D)	• Ripley Blues Club, Ripley (GB)
• Festival Cajun & Zydeco, Pontchartrain (F)	• Cajun & Zydeco Festival, Saulieu (F)
• American Cajun, Blues & Zydeco Festival (D)	• Cajun & Zydeco Festival, München (D)
• Cajun & Zydeco Festival, Ravensburg (D)	• Cajun & Zydeco Festival, Unna/Soest (D)
• Cajun & Zydeco festival, Baasem (D)	• Gloucester Cajun & Zydeco Festival (GB)
• Bristol Cajun & Zydeco Festival (GB)	• Zydecofestival, Raamsdonksveer (NL)
• Zydeco at Sea Festival, Ameland (NL)	• Bremen Festival Maritim (D)

The band plays music from the Louisiana swamps and prairies north west of New Orleans. One of the last great undiscovered musics of the modern world. It is a music which instantly grabs an audience and infuses them with a feeling of bonhomie and good times. Instant happiness as the fiddle and accordion weave their magic spell over unsuspecting audiences. Cajun and Zydeco is the main course mixed with a healthy side order of bayou blues and swamped up rock n roll. Their inspiration comes from players like Nathan Abshire, The Balfa Brothers, Johnnie Allan, Balfa Toujours, John Delafosse, Zydeco Force, Iry Lejeune, Boozoo Chavis, Steve Riley, Canray Fontenot, Slim Harpo, and Amedee Ardoin. They play with energy, intensity and passion, infusing life into old standards and new compositions. It is broadly speaking Cajun and Zydeco with a modern edge played with attitude but with a deep heartfelt respect for the old masters of the tradition. Every gig is a celebration of the richness of a Louisiana musical culture that all the members of this band love and understand. Every gig is non stop Louisiana party. Laissez les bon rouler as they say in Louisiana.

Let the good times roll.

CAJUN ROOSTERS

THE MUSICIANS

Chris Hall (Cajun and Zydeco accordion, vocals, scrubboard, triangle) (UK)

Since the 70's Louisiana accordion boss man Chris Hall, living in Derby/UK, has become widely known through his work with R.Cajun & the Zydeco Brothers, The Bearcats, Zydecomotion and US/UK band Breaux. His reputation is such that he **was called on by ex Rolling Stone Bill Wyman** to play on his album and was also **part of the band put together by ex Beatle Sir Paul McCartney to record his "Run Devil Run"** album. He was also called in by Kate Bush to contribute to her last album. His company Swampmusic is responsible for many tours and concerts of Louisiana artists in Europe and through its work he has spent many hours on the road with guys like Steve Riley, John Delafosse, Randy Vidrine, Mitch Reed, Geno Delafosse, Sean Ardoin, and Sean Vidrine absorbing their DNA through musical osmosis. He has a huge knowledge of C/Z which he put to good use on his own radio series on BBC Radio 2 and has been playing the music for almost 30 years with bands in Europe and with fellow musicians from Louisiana. With the Cajun Roosters he fronts a powerhouse band on vocals, Cajun accordion, triple row Zydeco accordion and occasional fiddle, all learnt from the masters at first hand.

Hazel Scott (vocals, guitar) (Scotland)

Hazel Scott's rhythm guitar, although learnt first hand from the Louisiana masters like Randy Vidrine, has developed into her own style which is both powerful and driving. But its her vocals that make her a world class addition to the Rooster sound. Described by highly respected musicians in Louisiana as "awesome" "right on the money" and "the business" she has rapidly gained a reputation as one of the most authentic Cajun vocalists around. And since Cajun music is her first love she's undeniably in the right place up on stage with The Cajun Roosters. With the addition of Hazel Scott the band have a secret weapon that raised the bar for Cajun bands this side of the Atlantic.

David Buyle (fiddle, vocals, e-guitar) (Belgium)

A fine award winning musician, belgian born David Buyle has a rare and uncanny ability to really get to grips with the subtlety of the Cajun style and capture the elusive Louisiana feel. He has studied the masters with great passion and has emerged as one of the few players outside Louisiana who really understand how to get the real Cajun sound. The fiddle is an essential part of Cajun music playing complex rhythms and soaring solos. He locks into a groove with the accordion that forms the driving front end of The Roosters sound. On Zydeco numbers he plays the scrubboard and electric guitar. He is a great vocalist singing classic cajuntunes from the Balfa Brothers.

Michael Bentele (bass) (Germany)

Has known the Louisiana Cajun scene for many years. During the 80's he went to Louisiana for the first time to do an interview with legendary Cajun fiddler Dewey Balfa and other Cajun musicians for a documentary film about the music. From that moment on he has been in love with the sounds of the swamp and has spent his time studying and playing the music of his heroes, writing articles on the music for national press, running his own Cajun record label, and organising the well known 'American Cajun, Blues and Zydeco Festival' in Germany since 2001. As a documentary film maker and TV director of many legendary music shows he has been around many kinds of music all his life. Yet one thing has remained constant, his love and passion for Cajun and Zydeco. He plays bass with drive and soul and switches to acoustic guitar on some songs for a more back porch feel.

Antoine Fève (drums) (France)

French drummer Antoine Fève is a Roosters member since spring 2012. He started playing drums at the age of six. He grew up listening to cajun and zydeco due to a large CD collection of his father, who plays guitar in the french cajunband 'Belisaire'. Antoine then played drums in his fathers band at the age of eleven. He studies drums at the conservatory in Paris and at the Sorbonne University. He loves cajun and zydeco drumming as well as jazz and roots music.

CAJUN AND ZYDECO

The word Cajun is a term applied to the people of a particular area of Southwest Louisiana. Their ancestors left France in the 17th century to settle in an area of Canada then known as Acadie, which became Nova Scotia and New Brunswick when the British took over in 1710. The Acadians were deported from their homeland in 1755 by the British Crown when they refused to swear allegiance, and renounce their Catholic faith. Many families were separated and more than a quarter of the 12,000 exiles perished in this sad episode in British colonial history. After 1765 many Acadians arrived in Louisiana where they struggled to recreate their society in the inhospitable swamps and bayous of their new home. For the next 200 years they lived in relative isolation in this harsh landscape and their distinctive culture developed away from the mainstream of American influence until well into the 20th century.

Cajun and Zydeco are regional music styles which flourish in Louisiana despite the efforts of the USA to homogenise all its cultures into one seamless whole. It's a blend of German, Spanish, Scottish, Irish, Anglo American, Afro Caribbean and American Indian influences with a base of French folk tradition. It's a music born of hardship and oppression and is joyous and uplifting despite the sadness of its lyrics. Whilst Cajun music is played by the white French people of Louisiana, Zydeco is the music of the black French speaking population. Though similar in some respects, Zydeco has a heavier helping of Afro Caribbean rhythm and more of a taste of the blues. Zydeco tends to be more rocking, syncopated and funkier than Cajun and is more likely to have English lyrics.

Both types of music are originally for dancing and having a good time. In Louisiana and here in Europe there are dances that go with the music and some people like to learn the moves and try out the dances. The music of The Cajun Roosters is equally suited to concerts and the band can tailor their show for many different situations.



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