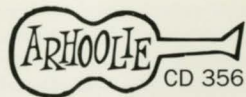


1. Hix Wagon Wheel Special
2. Valse Criminelle
3. Monsieur Leonard
4. Sugar Bee
5. Lake Charles Two-Step
6. Not Lonesome Anymore
7. Jolie Basette
8. Mon Coeur Fait P'us Mal
9. L'Anse a Paille
10. Tell Me Pretty Mama
11. Veuve de Basile
12. Shamrock Two-Step
13. Louisiana Waltz
14. Midland Two-Step
15. Hathaway Two-Step
16. Valse du Mariage
17. Lake Arthur Stomp

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**Danny Poullard** - accordion (and vocal on 3, 6, 8 & 11)  
**Suzy Thompson** - fiddle (and vocal on 4, 6, 13 & 16)  
**Eric Thompson** - guitar  
**Charlie St. Mary** - rub-board (and vocal on 7 & 10)  
**Bill Wilson** - bass  
**Sam Siggins** - drums  
**Kevin Wimmer** - second fiddle  
**Andrew Carriere** - vocal on 2, 9 & 14

Produced by Jody Stecher and Suzy Thompson; # 3, 10 & 12 produced by Chris Strachwitz; #5 produced by Michael Doucet  
 Engineered by Mike Cogan and Bob Shumaker  
 Mixed by Jody Stecher, Bob Shumaker and Suzy Thompson

Cover photo by Heather Hafleigh  
 Cover by Elizabeth Weil

*Other albums which feature members of the California Cajun Orchestra:*

**Cajun Jam Session** (Arhoolie 5035) Danny Poullard, Michael Doucet and Alan Senauke  
**Adam and Eve Had the Blues** (Arhoolie 5041) Eric & Suzy Thompson with Danny Poullard, Charlie St. Mary and Kevin Wimmer

# THE *California Cajun* ORCHESTRA



**“NOT LONESOME ANYMORE”**  
 OVER 60 MINUTES OF CLASSIC CAJUN MUSIC

**A**fter playing hundreds of dances together over the past eight years, we pay tribute on this, our debut album, to some of our influences, the many great musicians of Cajun music who have come before us.

Danny Poullard's first inspiration was his father, John Poullard, Sr., whose vast repertoire includes *Lake Charles Two-Step*, *Midland Two-Step*, (originally recorded by Amadee Ardoin), and *Jolie Bassette*. Danny also learned the *Hathaway Two-Step* from his dad and Suzy throws in a little of Andrew Carriere's dad's tune, *Blues a Bebe*, into her fiddle break.

The Cajun music of the Balfa family has been a major influence on us all; *Veuve de Basile* comes from the singing of Rodney Balfa and *Valse de Mariage* is a re-working of Dewey Balfa's *Family Waltz*, with new words written by Suzy in honor of a friend's wedding. *Hix Wagon Wheel* and our title song, *Not Lonesome Anymore*, (written by John Allan Guillot), both were learned from recordings by Aldus Roger.

Charlie St. Mary learned *Tell Me Pretty Mama* as a young man "way back in Louisiana." *Monsieur Leonard* comes from the late John Semien, another of Danny Poullard's early influences. *Sugar Bee* is Suzy's version of the Cleveland Crochet standard. *Shamrock Two-Steps* Nathan Abshire's accordion *tour-de-force*, and *Mon Coeur Fait P'us Malis* his Frenchifying of Hank Snow's country and western hit, *I Don't Hurt Any More*. Suzy learned the *Louisiana Waltz* from a recording by Harry Choates, the Fiddle King of Cajun Swing. *Valse Criminelle*, *L'Anse a Paille* and *Lake Arthur Stomp* are all classics of Cajun music, having been recorded dozens of times by nearly everybody.

The California Cajun Orchestra has been setting dancers on fire all over the San Francisco Bay Area for more than eight years now. Originally formed as an off-shoot of the eclectic acoustic Blue Flame Stringband, the CCO soon began playing dances on its own and has grown to become one of the most powerful dance bands on the West Coast.

**Danny Poullard** was born and raised in Eunice, Louisiana, moving with his family to Beaumont, Texas when he was thirteen years old. Danny's father, John Poullard, Sr., is an excellent accordion player. Of the twelve Poullard children, the two who are musicians are Danny and his brother, fiddler-accordion player Edward Poullard. Danny moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1961 where he soon hooked up with accordion player John Semien and fiddler Ben Guillory, who encouraged him to get serious about the accordion. Other influences include Lawrence Walker, Aldus Roger and Nathan Abshire. Danny became the leader of the local Louisiana Playboys after John Semien's death, playing church dances throughout the Bay Area. In 1982 he began sitting in with the Blue Flame String Band which eventually grew into the California Cajun Orchestra. He was a featured artist for three years running at the

Western Regional Folklife Festival, and has recorded with Michael Doucet and Alan Senauke.

**Charlie St. Mary** was raised on Lil' Indian Bayou, near Gillis, Louisiana, across the bridge from Lake Charles. He comes from a rub-board playing family; several other St. Marys, including Charlie's brother Junior, also scratch the froittoir. Charlie joined his brothers in California in 1960 working in the steel construction industry. He now lives in Sacramento, California.

**Suzy Thompson** grew up in Mt. Vernon, New York in a musical family. She studied classical violin until she discovered how much more fun playing the fiddle could be! After hearing the Balfa Brothers at a folk festival in 1975, Suzy began making pilgrimages to Southwest Louisiana to learn the music, and eventually apprenticed with Dewey Balfa under an NEA grant. She also was heavily influenced by the playing and singing of Wallace "Cheese" Read, Dennis McGee and Harry Choates.

**Eric Thompson** was raised in Oakland and Palo Alto, California. He learned to play guitar as a teenager and was active in the bluegrass world for many years, recording both as a sideman and under his own name. In 1961 Eric began collecting 78s and one of the first he acquired was by Harry Choates. He continued to pursue his interest in Cajun music by traveling to Louisiana to visit musicians such as D. L. Menard and Marc Savoy. The California Cajun Orchestra has been Eric's maiden voyage on the electric guitar.

**Bill Wilson** grew up in Bakersfield, California and has been a mainstay of the Bay Area music scene for many years. A talented multi-instrumentalist, he plays not only bass but also piano and one row button accordion, steel guitar, piano and even, on rare occasions, the fiddle.

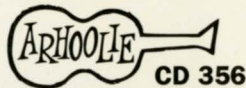
**Sam Siggins** was raised in Grand Island, Nebraska. He began playing drums in rock and roll bands while still in junior high school. Sam has since played both drums and electric bass in many country and western bands in the Bay Area in addition to working with the CCO.

**Kevin Wimmer** grew up in New York City. His parents are both classical musicians. He has played bluegrass, swing, rock and roll, and old-time music on the fiddle since high school. Kevin's biggest influence in Cajun music is Dewey Balfa. He plays fiddle with the CCO whenever he can fit it in between performances with the bluegrass band The Good Ol' Persons, of which he is also a member.

**Andrew Carriere** grew up near Lawtell, Louisiana in a musical family. He is the son of fiddler Bebe Carriere, nephew of accordion player Eraste Carriere, and the cousin of fiddler Calvin Carriere, who plays with Delton Broussard and the Lawtell Playboys. Andrew moved to California in the 1960s and now lives in Oakland. He usually attends the dances when the CCO plays and often does a guest spot as vocalist, as he does here on three songs.

# California Cajun Orchestra

## "NOT LONESOME ANYMORE"



**Over 60 Minutes of Classic CAJUN MUSIC**

1. Hix Wagon Wheel Special (3:14)
2. Valse Criminelle (3:27)
3. Monsieur Leonard (3:03)  
(John Semien)
4. Sugar Bee (3:46) (Cleveland Crochet)
5. Lake Charles Two-Step (2:47)
6. Not Lonesome Anymore (4:11)  
(John Allan Guillot)
7. Jolie Basette (2:46)
8. Mon Coeur Fait P'us Mal (2:51)
9. L'Anse a Paille (3:33) (Dewey Balfa)
10. Tell Me Pretty Mama (3:41)
11. Veuve de Basile (3:54)
12. Shamrock Two-Step (2:53)
13. Louisiana Waltz (3:32)
14. Midland Two-Step (3:16)
15. Hathaway Two-Step (4:24)
16. Valse du Mariage (4:20) (Suzy Thompson)
17. Lake Arthur Stomp (4:22)

Total Time: 61:15

DANNY POUILLARD - accordion (& vocals on 3, 6, 8 & 11)  
SUZY THOMPSON - fiddle (& vocals on 4, 6, 13 & 16)  
ERIC THOMPSON - guitar  
CHARLIE ST. MARY - rub-board (& vocals on 7 & 10)  
BILL WILSON - bass  
SAM SIGGINS - drums  
KEVIN WIMMER - fiddle  
ANDREW CARRIERE - vocals on 2, 9 & 14

Cover by Elizabeth Weil

Cover Photo by Heather Hafleigh

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CD-356

