

THE SAVOY FAMILY BAND



TURN LOOSE BUT DON'T LET GO

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Arhoolie
525

The Savoy Family Band – Turn Loose But Don't Let Go

1. **Crowley Two Step** (P.D. arr. by Marc Savoy and Aldus Roger) Instrumental
2. **Tous Les Soirs Quand Ca Fait Noir** (Adam Hebert – Flat Town Music) Vocal by Ann
3. **'Tite Robe Courte** (Pierre Varmin Daigle – Flat Town Music) Vocal by Wilson
4. **Baby And The Gambler** (P.D. arr. by Joel Savoy – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Vocal by Ann
5. **Je Me Sens Comme Une Pauvre Orpheline** (I Feel Like A Poor Orphan Girl) (Ann Savoy – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Vocal by Ann
6. **I'll Be Lonely** (Je Vas M'ennuyer) (Belton Richard – Flat Town Music) Vocal by Ann
7. **Rockin' Chair Two Step** (Marc Savoy – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Instrumental
8. **Sugar Bee** (Eddie Shuler – TEK Publishing) Vocal by Wilson
9. **Madame Atchen** (P.D. arr. by Savoy Family – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Vocal by Ann
10. **Rosa, Tomorrow Is Not Sunday** (Adieu Rosa) (Dennis McGee & Sady Courville – Flat Town Music) Vocal by Wilson
11. **You're So Easy To Love** (Belton Richard – Flat Town Music) Vocal by Ann
12. **Valse Des Reeds** (Reed's Waltz) (Dennis McGee – Flat Town Music) Instrumental
13. **Two Step De Prairie Soileau** (Marc & Ann Savoy – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Vocal by Wilson
14. **You Don't Know Me** (Tu Me Connais Pas) (C.Walker & E.Arnold – Warner-Tamerlane Pub OBO Mijac Music) Vocal by Wilson
15. **Cheese Cloth** (P.D. arr. by Marc Savoy – Tradition Music Co. c/o BUG Music Co.) Instrumental

Personnel:

Marc Savoy – Accordion

Ann Savoy – 1953 Gretsch Hollow Body electric guitar, Custom Martin 00-21 acoustic guitar, and resonator guitar, vocals, triangle on # 6,10, & 11

Wilson Savoy – piano and vocals; fiddle on # 10 & 12 and accordion on # 5

Joel Savoy – fiddle; guitar on # 14

Steve Riley – drums on # 13

Drew Simon – drums on # 3, 8, & 11

Marc plays the Acadian accordions he builds at the Savoy Music Center, Eunice, LA
Joel and Wilson play Matthew J. Doucet violins

All selections except as listed below recorded by David Rachou at La Louisiane Studio, Lafayette, LA.

1, 7, & 15 recorded by Joel Savoy live at the Savoy Music Center in Eunice, LA

Live recordings # 5 & 13 recorded at Rhythm & Roots Festival, Charlestown, RI by Paul Antonell of Clubhouse Recording, Rhinebeck, NY

Produced by The Savoy Family

Mixed by Joel Savoy, Studio SavoyFaire, Eunice, LA

Cover photo by Ann Savoy; other photos by Bennet Rhodes. Thanks to *Nick's on Second* of Eunice for the use of their dance hall in the photographs

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Ann Savoy's comments about the songs,
transcriptions and translations of the lyrics:

1. Crowley Two Step – This is one of the most interesting and rocking Cajun instrumental two-steps. It has been around a long time, beginning on recordings by Joe Falcon, but we can't remember what he called it.

2. Tous Les Soirs Quand Ça Fait Noir – We learned this song from Adam Hebert who wrote and translated many great songs. We love the way he sings of love, in simple, earthy words, very soul wrenching.

Tes beaux yeux noirs moi j'ai adoré avant tu t'en vas
Ton 'tit bec doux moi j'aimais autant tous les matins
Ta grosse caresse qui était pour moi avant de dormir
Mais moi, je m'ennuie tous les soirs quand ça fait noir.

Moi, j' jongle à toi chaque minute de la journée
Et je prie pour toi tous les jours de la semaine
Et moi je regret que toi tu t'en r'ven pas
Pour p'us je m'ennuie de toi quand ça fait noir.

Your beautiful black eyes, I loved then so before you left
Your sweet little kiss I loved so much each morning
Your big hug, just for me, before sleeping.
I am so lonely every night when it gets dark.

I think of you every minute of the day
And I pray for you every day of the week
And I regret that you won't come back
so I 'll no longer be lonely
For you every night when it gets dark.

3. 'Tite Robe Courte – In this age of computer madness and isolation we loved the fun of this song, rallying people to get up, get dressed up, go out and meet the people and have fun before life is over

Vas mettre ta 'tite robe courte,
du rouge et du lipstick
On va danser tous les samedis
La vie elle est trop courte, on a pas le temps à perdre
Allons danser tous les samedis.

O, samedi au soir arrive, on a pas le temps à perdre
On a pas le temps de boire la bonne vieille bière
La vie elle est trop courte, on a pas le temps à perdre
Allons danser tous les samedis.

4. Baby and the Gambler – This song was learned off a 78 rpm by Delma Lachney - it is the only song I have heard talking about an abandoned crying baby - it touched me so much.

Mon bébé est malade, couché dans le lit
Mon marié au gamblage ce soir sûrement
Il m'as dit des menées autant tous les soirs
Il m'as dit des menées autant tous les soirs

Juste avant j'suis mariée mes joues étaient roses
Et après j'suis marié ils sont plus verts que les choux
Ma maman m'a dit "quo-faire tu me quittes,
ma chère 'tite fille pour te marier?"
J'ai répondu "Ouais, ma chère maman,
mais tu connais donc que je l'aime trop gros."

Mon bébé est malade il pleure dans le lit
Il appelle pour toi mais tu viens pas à lui.

Go put on your little short dress,
some rouge and some lipstick
We're gonna' dance every Saturday
Life is too short, we don't have time to lose
Let's dance every Saturday.

Saturday night arrives, we don't have time to lose
We don't have time to drink any old beer
Life is too short, we don't have time to lose
Let's dance every Saturday.

My baby is sick, sleeping in the bed
My husband is surely out gambling tonight
He has told me so many lies every night
He has told me so many lies every night....

Before I got married my cheeks were pink
And after I was married they were as green as cabbages
My mama said, "Why are you leaving me,
my dear little girl, To get married?"
I answered, "My dear mother,
you know I love him too big (too much)".

My baby is sick, he cries in the bed
He calls for you but you don't come to him.

5. Je Me Sens Comme Une Pauvre Orpheline (I feel like a poor orphan girl) –

Ann wanted to do a real old Cajun country blues with her resonator guitar, fiddles and mono-tone accordion wailing in the background. She was calling forth the rough pioneer country blues girls that she loves to listen to.

O, j'ai plus personne mais pour m'aimer
J'ai plus personne à la maison mais pour m'aimer.

O, mon homme est gone de la maison
O, mon homme est gone de la maison il m'a laissé mais
moi toute seule.

6. I'll Be Lonely (Je Vas M'Ennuyer) – Another beautiful, sad love song from Belton Richard.

Éou toi t'es mais tous les jours moi je vas m'ennuyer
Éou toi t'es tous les jours qu'après se passer
Quand-même toi, mais tu t'éloignes
Faudra que j'essaie de l'endurer
Éou toi t'es, tous les jours, je vas m'ennuyer.

Moi, j'ai plus besoin de quiqu'un pour m'aimer
Moi, j'ai plus besoin de quiqu'un pour me consoler
Il y a juste toi qui peut faire ça
'Gardez donc t'es pas là
Éou toi t'es tous les jours je vas m'ennuyer.

Moi, je pense il faudra que j'essaie te mettre à côté
Je pense il faudra que moi j'essaie de t'oublier
Quandmême si je peux pas faire ça
Tant que toi t'es dans mon idée
Éou toi t'es tous les jours je vas m'ennuyer.

O, let me be your little dog gone
O, let me be your little, little dog gone...

Oh, there's nobody left to love me
Nobody left at the house to love me.

Oh, my man is gone from the house
Oh, my man is gone from the house ,
he left me all alone.

Where are you every day? I'm gonna' be so lonely,
Where are you all these days that are passing by?
Even though you are far away, I will have to endure it
Where are you every day? I'm going to be so lonely,

I need someone to love me
I need someone to console me
Only you can do that, but look! You're not there,
Where are you every day? I'm gonna' be so lonely,

I think I'll have to put you to the side
I think I'll have to try to forget you
Even though I probably won't be able to, my thoughts
are so full of you.
Where are you every day? I'm gonna' be so lonely.

7. Rocking Chair Two Step – Marc put this two step together, the first part from memories of tunes from his dancehall days and the second part from his head.

8. Sugar Bee – This song was a national hit for Cleveland Crochet. Our friend Jesse Stutes belted the vocal out like a wild man. Wilson is following suit, wailing the blues.

9. Madame Atchen – A pure old Cajun waltz written about the daughter of Marc's great grandfather's French yardman. She would wear a striped dress and was very tall, so at the dance a song was written about her, Grande Barrée (Tall Woman in Stripes) Amede Ardoin later recorded it and called it Madame Atchen as a tribute to Marc's grandmother's housekeeper of this name.

Je vas mettre ma robe barrée, mettre ma robe barrée

'Garde mon nèg' qui vient
Il m'as promis il va me soigner va me faire du bien
Il va m'ramener, va m'ramener sur la grande prairie,
Je vas mettre ma robe barrée, s mettre ma robe barrée
'Garde mon nèg' qui vient.

Balancez, balancez, ouais mais dans mes bras
Fais do-do, fais do do mais dans mes bras
Il va m'ramener, va m'ramener sur la grande prairie,

Je vas mettre ma robe barrée pour aller au bal.

I'm going to put on my striped dress, put on my
striped dress

Look at my man coming
He promised he will care for me, he'll do me good
He's gonna' bring me, he's gonna' bring me to the
big prairie
Look at my man who is coming.

Sway, sway in my arms
Go to sleep, go to sleep in my arms
He's gonna' bring me, he's gonna' bring me to the
big prairie
I'm gonna' put on my striped dress to go to the dance.

10. Rosa, Tomorrow Is Not Sunday (Adieu Rosa) – This enigmatical song comes from the singing of Dennis McGee who was imitating the “witnessing” custom of the black religious gathering called “Jurés”

Adieu Rosa, merci bon Dieu, demain c'est pas dimanche
Jurez, ma lord, Rosa c'est pas ma soeur
Adieu Rosa, jurez, ma lord, jurez ma lord.

Goodbye, Rosa. thank God tomorrow is not Sunday
Witness to the lord, Rosa isn't my sister
Witness to the lord...

11. You're So Easy To Love – We learned this song from the Cajun crooner Belton Richard, who wrote many beautiful love songs and translated many great American country songs into French. I remember seeing Belton playing at the Liberty Theater in Eunice once and women were screaming!

Viens voir ici, laisse- moi te toucher
Laisse- moi regarder dans les yeux un autre fois
Laisse -moi te dire comment gros je t'aime
Laisse -moi te caresser
Parce que t'es si aisé pour aimer
J'ai toujours voulu quiqu'un comme toi pour rester avec moi
Attrape ma main fais- moi sentir comme une femme un autre fois
Parce que t'es si aisé pour aimer.

Attrape ma main, marche avec moi, laisse -moi montrer à tout le pays comment gros je t'aime
Avec toi à mon côté il y a pas rien que moi je peux pas faire
Parce que t'es si aisé pour aimer
Tu seras tout le temps dans mon idée, tu seras tout le

Come here, let me touch you
Let me look in your eyes one more time
Let me tell you how much I love you, let me caress you,
Because you are so easy to love.

I always wanted someone like to stay with me
Take my hand, make me feel like a woman another time
Because you're so easy to love.

Take my hand, walk with me
Let me show the world how much I love you
With you at my side, there is nothing I can't do
Because you're so easy to love.
You'll be always in my thoughts, you'll be always right in my heart

temps droit dans mon coeur parce que moi je t'adore
Attrape ma main fait moi sentir comme une femme un autre fois
Parce que t'es si aisé pour aimer.

Because I adore you
Take my hand, make me feel like a woman another time
Because you're so easy to love.

12. Valse Des Reeds (Reed's Waltz) – This has always been one of our favorite melodies by Dennis McGee. Joel and Wilson play twin fiddles here, playing the waltz in an upbeat, old-style way.

13. Two step de Prairie Soileau – Amedé Ardoin, the late great Afro American pioneer, recorded this song in the 1930's. It is basically a pyro-technic exercise around two chords.

Hé, comment mais toi tu crois
Mais quo' faire, quo' faire bébé 'tit monde
Mais ton pop et ta mam ça veut plus de moi
Mais quo' faire, quo' faire bébé.

Hey, so what do you think I'm gonna' do, baby,
Your Pop and your Mom don't want me anymore
Why, why, why?



14. You Don't Know Me (Tu Me Connais Pas) – Wilson translated this old country and rhythm and blues song into French. When we heard him singing it we asked him to record it very simply, with him on piano and with Joel on guitar.

Tu donnes ta main à moi, et puis tu me dis bonsoir,
Et moi je peux plus parler, moi je peux plus respirer
O, j'suis juste un ami, c'est tout j'ai toujours été
Tu me connais pas.

Tu connais pas l'un qui rêve à toi à soir
Qui veut te tenir dans mes bras
Qui veut te tenir près de moi
O, tu vas jamais savoir, ouais, l'homme qui t'aime un tas
Tu me connais pas

J'ai jamais su comment faire l'amour
Mais mon coeur est pleine de l'amour pour toi
Tu m'a fait peur, j'ai manqué ma chance
La chance que tu m'aimerais aussi.

Tu donnes ta main à moi, et puis tu me dis bonsoir,
Moi, je te regarde, ma chère, avec un autre à ton côté
Ouais, tu vas jamais savoir, l'homme qui t'aime un tas,
Tu me connais pas.

To give your hand to me, and then you say hello
And I can no longer speak, I can no longer breathe
Oh, I'm just a friend, that's all I've ever been
You don't know me.

You don't know the one who dreams of you at night
Who wants to hold you in his arms
Who wants to hold you close to me
You will never know the man who loves you so
You don't know me.

Oh, I never knew how to make love
Though my heart was full of love for you
You made me afraid, I missed my chance,
The chance that you would love me too.

You give your hand to me and then you say hello
And I look at you, dear, with another at your side
Yes, you will never know the man who loves you so,
You don't know me.

15. Cheese Cloth – Marc learned this song from Cheese Read, the late, great Cajun fiddler. He enjoyed the challenge of playing this very un-Cajun tune on his accordion.



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