



Cajun music played stripped down,  
no bells and whistles by the Magnolia Sisters.

Studio Savoy Faire, Eunice, Louisiana.  
All songs, texts, and translations are embedded  
on the CD and accessible by computer.  
[www.magnoliasisters.com](http://www.magnoliasisters.com)



# The Magnolia Sisters

Stripped Down





**1. A boire, à boire** (Let's Drink, Let's Drink)

*Vocals-all*

"The Acadians aren't so crazy that they would leave without having a little drink!" Collected by John and Alan Lomax in Louisiana in 1932.

**2. Tap Dance/Bernadette**

*Accordion and vocal-Ann, Fiddle-Anya, Rubboard-Lisa, Guitar-Jane*

These are two old La La tunes from the Afro-American tradition. Part one has the rubboard imitating a tap dance, part two came from an early Arhoolie 45 rpm by John Semien.

**3. Valse d'amitié** (Friendship Waltz)

*Vocals-Jane and Lisa, Fiddles-Anya and Jane, Guitar and banjo-mando-Ann, Bass-Lisa*

Jane learned this gorgeous waltz from Doc Guidry, about a man kneeling by his friend's bed, broken hearted because the friend is dying, and he will never see the friend again.

**4. Point Clear Blues**

*Accordion and vocal-Ann, Fiddle-Anya, Guitar-Jane, Bass-Lisa, Egg shaker-Joel Savoy*  
Ann found a very scratchy recording of this song, by Columbus Fruge. It has a very strange rhythm, and it is an early version of "La Danse de Limonade", which came from a very popular New Orleans Creole tune, "Mo Ché Cousin, Mo Ché Cousin". It is a Creole man singing about how he loves to eat so much that he gets sick and his wife has to save him with a glass of lemonade.

**5. Faut pas tu brailles** (No Use Crying)

*Vocals-Ann and Jane, Guitar-Jane, Fiddle-Anya, Banjo Mando-Ann*

This gentle number from the Hackberry Ramblers says, "It's no use crying, I'm gonna' love you anyway."

**6. Paulina Tate**

*Vocal and guitar-Ann, Accordion-Lisa, Fiddles-Anya, Lisa-bass*

This song came from a ballad fragment sung by Edius Naquin. A song of love and friendship between two great Mamou families, the Tates and the Israels. Lisa decided to turn it into an accordion two-step yes, that is Lisa on accordion on this song.

**7. Jolie petite blonde** (Pretty Little Blonde)

*Vocal and bass-Lisa, Lead guitar-Jane, Accordion-Ann, Fiddle-Anya*

Engineer Joel Savoy decided to use a vintage microphone of Cajun radio DJ Revon Reed to recreate the distortion on old live radio shows. Jane picks a little blues guitar to set off the old Cajun blues. In it, a man says he knows his girl doesn't love him anymore because she stayed out all night, not telling him where she was.

**8. Pourquoi tu m'as trahi?** (Why Did You Betray Me?)

*Vocals-Ann and Jane, Guitar-Jane*

Chris Strachwitz, who always has an ear for a rare and beautiful tune, sent Ann this song from folklorist Harry Oster's unissued collection. The words paint a portrait of a broken heart, with stunning imagery. "I want to write you a few words in verse, but my strength escapes me, my pen falls from my hand."

**9. Grand Texas (Chuck Guillory)**

*Fiddle and vocal-Anya, Guitar and second fiddle-Jane, Banjo-mando-Ann, Bass-Lisa*

Anya loves to tear up this Chuck Guillory hit about her love taking off for Texas.

**10. Waltz of the Bayou**

*Accordion and vocal-Ann, Fiddles-Anya and Jane, Guitar and triangle-Lisa*

Here is another song from Lisa's great uncle, Bixy Guidry. We love the old fashioned, true Cajun feel of this unique waltz. A woman laments that love and friendship are so hard, how can a woman stand something like that?

**11. Bon temps rouler (Clarence Garlow)** (Let The Good Times Roll)

*Guitar and voc-Ann, Fiddles-Anya and Jane, Bass and rubboard-Lisa*

This old R&B tune that talks about the fun life in southwest Louisiana, where people know how to let the good times roll.





### **12. Marie One Step**

*Vocal and bass-Lisa, Accordion-Ann, Fiddle-Anya, Guitar-Jane*

We were drawn to this song because of its unusual rhythm, for a Cajun song. It has a fun, rollicking sound. The lyrics are a man telling off his sly girlfriend, Marie.

### **13. Barroom Blues**

*Fiddle and vocal-Anya, Guitar-Jane, Banjo-mando-Ann, Bass-Lisa*

Anya captured the old-time feeling to this barroom string band song. We learned it from the Alley Boys of Abbeville. She finds her boyfriend suffering at the corner bar. He ends up dying. She goes and buries him, then goes back to the bar and joins the crowd drinking.

### **14. Blues d'orpheline** (Blues of the Orphan Girl)

*Guitar and lead vocal-Jane, Accordion and extra vocals-Ann, Fiddle-Anya, rubboard-Lisa*

Moise Robin of Arnaudville is loosely the source for this number. An orphan tells that she has no one — no mother, father, brother, sisters, or relatives. Then she thinks she sees her mother coming in the distance, and finally realizes it is just her imagination.

### **15. Creole Stomp**

*Accordion-Ann, Fiddles-Anya and Jane, Guitar and triangle-Lisa*

We had to have one classic dancehall tune on our CD. Anya and Jane have a great twin fiddle part going here.

### **16. Goodbye, chère amie** (Goodbye Dear friend)

*Vocal-Jane, Fiddle-Anya, Fiddle drone-Joel Savoy*

This song came from song collector Catherine Blanchet's thesis of Folksongs of Southwest Louisiana. Jane added a few words to the thesis fragment, letting it complete the story told in the American version of the song, "My Horses Ain't Hungry". The lover won't get off his horse, he is just stopping by to say goodbye.

Produced by the Magnolia Sisters and Joel Savoy.


Recorded and mixed by Ann and Joel Savoy at Savoy Faire Studio, Eunice, LA.

Thanks to Raleigh Powell for the loan of his Vega Whyte Laydie Banjo Mandolin.

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  9. Grand texas
  10. Waltz of the Bayou
  11. Bon temps rouler
  12. Marie One step
  13. Barroom Blues

14. Blues d'orpheline

15. Creole stomp

16. Goodbye, chère amie

Design and photos by Ann Savoy  
Magnolia Sisters photo by Paige Rabelais



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Ann Savoy  
Jane Vidrine  
Lisa Trahan  
Anya Burgess

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File Under: **CAJUN**



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