

JESSIE LEGÉ & EDWARD POUILLARD AND THE ALL STAR CAJUN BAND LIVE! AT THE ISLETON CRAWDAD FESTIVAL

1. **QUO FAIRE** (Why?) (Alphonse Ardoin/Canray Fontenot, Wynwood Music Co. Inc.)
2. **TOLAN WALTZ** (P.D. arr. Jessie Legé)
3. **NEW CROWLEY TWO STEP** (DAR)
4. **MA FEMME ET MES ENFANTS**
(My Wife and My Children)
(Jesse Legé - Tradition Music Co./Bug Music Co.)
5. **WON'T BE SATISFIED**
(Belton Richard - Flat Town Music Co.)
6. **VALS DE LA BELLE**
(Shirley Bergeron /Levence Lavergne - Jon Music Co.)
7. **MISERY TWO STEP**
(Canray Fontenot - Tradition Music Co.)
8. **KLFY WALTZ** (Aldus Roger - La Lou Music Co.)
9. **FE FE PONCHO** (P.D. - arr. Jessie Legé)
10. **VIENS ME CHERCHER** (Come and Get Me)
(Iry Lejune - Tek Music Co.)
11. **WALTZ OF NO RETURN**
(Belton Richard - Flat Town Music Co.)
12. **SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL**
(Darrel Higginbotham - Flat Town Music Co.)
13. **ZYDECO SONT PAS SALÉ** (Clifton Chenier - Tradition Music Co. & Flat Town Music c/o Bug Music)

JESSE LEGÉ - vocals and accordion
EDWARD POUILLARD - fiddle

plus The Cajun All Stars:

Billy Wilson - steel guitar

Martin Jara - guitar

Steven Strauss - bass

David "Killer" Hymowitz - drums

On selections with two fiddles, the second fiddle is played by Martin Jara, leaving rhythm guitar duties to Billy Wilson.

Photos by Mary Schraffenberger

Recorded by Gabe Lewin at Dave

Mason's 2001 Isleton Crawdad Festival

Edited by Edward Poullard &

Chris Strachwitz

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JESSIE LEGÉ & EDWARD POUILLARD



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JESSE LEGÉ

Jesse Legé was raised in the country, outside the small town of Gueydan, Louisiana – the same place Nathan Abshire hailed from. He was born in 1951, one of nine children of John and Louisiana Legé. The family lived in a small one-room house, and there wasn't much money around. They spoke French at home and with their neighbors – most of them related in some way. It was a simpler way of life, but times were not always easy. It was a way of life that Jesse sometimes misses.

Jesse is committed to preserving his Louisiana heritage, and he wants people to understand where his music comes from. His music comes from the heart, and it is rooted in an earlier time. When he was growing up, Jesse will explain, folks didn't call it "Cajun music." Back then, everyone – Cajun and Creole alike – just played what they called "French music."

Jesse first learned to play music at home, at the house dances that were held when friends and family gathered together. A guitar-playing cousin was his first musical inspiration. Jesse started playing guitar and harmonica in his early teens, but he quickly moved on to the accordion. Before too long, he was playing the accordion for public dances.

In Louisiana, Jesse Legé has received many honors for his music, which embodies the traditional old time sound that he most loves. The CFMA (Cajun French Music

Association) has honored him with awards for Best Accordion Player of the Year, Best First Recording of the Year, Best Vocalist of the Year, and (as a member of the Jeff Davis Ramblers) Best Traditional Band of the Year and Best Band of the Year. He has received nominations for Song of the Year for two of his original compositions, including the regional hit "Memoires Dans Mon Coeur" (Memories In My Heart). In 1998, he was inducted into the Cajun Music Hall of Fame.

It is only in recent years that Jesse has begun to travel outside Louisiana. In that short time, he has become a popular teacher and performer at national music camps and festivals. At places like the Augusta Heritage Center in West Virginia, Jesse's students cluster around him, eager to learn the secrets of playing the Cajun accordion. Many of them are equally inspired by his impassioned singing, a style that

is very much in the traditional vein, and at the same time completely Jesse's own. It is the kind of singing that pierces the heart and "makes your hair stand on end."

Jesse's involvement at Augusta, which began in 1999, has contributed significantly to his growing national prominence, and it has helped usher in a new phase of his musical life. One direct consequence of Augusta was the development of a warm personal and musical relationship with the highly-regarded Creole musicians, Edward and Danny Poullard. Sadly, Danny's death in April of 2001 marked an end to that relationship, although Danny's favorite accordion has found its way into Jesse's hands.

Fortunately, the collaboration with Ed Poullard, a master fiddler, has continued to blossom. Back home, Jesse and Ed have begun to play regularly at venues in Texas and

Louisiana. They have also appeared in Eunice at the Liberty Theatre's "Rondevous Des Cajun," a regionally broadcast radio and television program. At the national level, the pair have become headliners at the annual Isleton (California) Crawdad Festival, Ardenwood Cajun and Zydeco Festival (Fremont, California), and at the University of Chicago Folk Festival.

Jesse now makes his home in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He can be heard playing most Saturdays at places like the VFW in Jennings, Louisiana, and the Rodair Club in Port Acres, Texas. He has made one recording with his former group, The Lake Charles Ramblers ("Memoires du Passé") and with his current band, **The Southern Ramblers**, he has just released a new CD.

(Blair Kilpatrick - 2002)

EDWARD POULLARD

Edward Poullard comes from a long line of Creole musicians. He was born in Eunice, Louisiana (3/14/1952), to a French-speaking family with a rich musical heritage. His parents, John and Dorcena, moved the family to Texas when Poullard was very young. He was one of eleven children, four brothers and six sisters. He and his older brother, Danny were the ones who would carry on the family's musical traditions.

Poullard's musical education began early. He started out on drums and guitar when he was thirteen, but he quickly graduated to the accordion. From his father, a highly regarded accordionist, Poullard learned the beautiful, older tunes that would



become the foundation of his own repertoire. He soon became proficient on the accordion, and by the age of nineteen he was playing house parties and church dances in his father's band, The Poullard Family Band. He went on to play with other notable ensembles, such as The Ardoin Family Band and BeauSoleil.

Poullard's musical life was disrupted when he suffered a serious work-related injury to his right hand. In the course of recovering from the injury he turned to the fiddle, as a way of keeping his musical interest alive.

Initially, Poullard relied on the musical guidance of his parents, since there were no accomplished fiddlers living in the area. As Poullard's interest in this new instrument began to develop, he felt a growing desire to further his knowledge of Creole fiddle styles and repertoire. He sought out master Creole fiddler Canray Fontenot, who was living in Welch, Louisiana,

and obtained a grant from The Texas Folklife Resources to allow him to pursue his studies more intensively.

As a result of that apprenticeship, Poullard regularly played with Fontenot on the national folk festival circuit. This collaboration, which often included Poullard's brother Danny (a fine accordionist who had become a central figure in the West Coast music scene) continued until Fontenot's death in 1995. With the death of the legendary Canray Fontenot, Poullard has become one of only a handful of musicians who are keeping the Creole fiddle tradition alive.

Poullard has been inspired by a number of other fiddlers over the years, including Creole fiddlers Calvin Carriere, Ben Guillory, and the legendary Cajun fiddler Dewey Balfa. And like the master artists who influenced him, Poullard has become increasingly active in passing on his traditions to others. He has taught

"Cajun and Creole" fiddle and accordion styles at festivals and music camps throughout the United States and Europe, including The Augusta Heritage Center in West Virginia; the Chicago Folk Festival; the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes at Port Townsend, Washington; the Folklore Village Dance Camp, Dodgeville Wisconsin; the Rhode Island Cajun & Bluegrass Festival, Providence Rhode Island; and the Buffalo Gap Dance Camp in West Virginia.

Poullard has made a number of recordings. He can be heard playing the accordion on the sound track of the film *Belizaire the Cajun*, and on Canray Fontenot's recording *Louisiana Hot Sauce* (Arhoolie CD 381). He also appears on fiddle with Lawrence

Ardoin on the 1984 release *Tradition Creole* (Arhoolie CD 9012). Poullard plays the fiddle on his most recent release on Louisiana Radio Records, *Poullard, Poullard, and Garnier*, a recording made with his brother Danny. The recording was released just a few weeks before Danny's death on April 27, 2001.

Ed is the third generation to be carrying on the musical tradition of the Poullard family. He is carrying on the music of his father – and all the others who came before – and he is enriching the Creole music world with new vigor and talent. Ed plays from the very heart of the Louisiana French music tradition, and his music and spirit are a gift to all of us.

(Edward Poullard - 2002)

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Jesse Legé and Edward Poullard, are living legends of authentic Louisiana Cajun and Creole music. Jessie sings in the traditional high pitched, emotional style reminiscent of the late Iry Lejeune and plays the accordion with equal power and conviction. Edward Poullard is one of the few Creole fiddlers still carrying on in the tradition of the late Canray Fontenot.

JESSE LEGÉ - vocals and accordion
EDWARD POUILLARD - fiddle

with: The Cajun All Stars:

Billy Wilson - steel guitar

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