

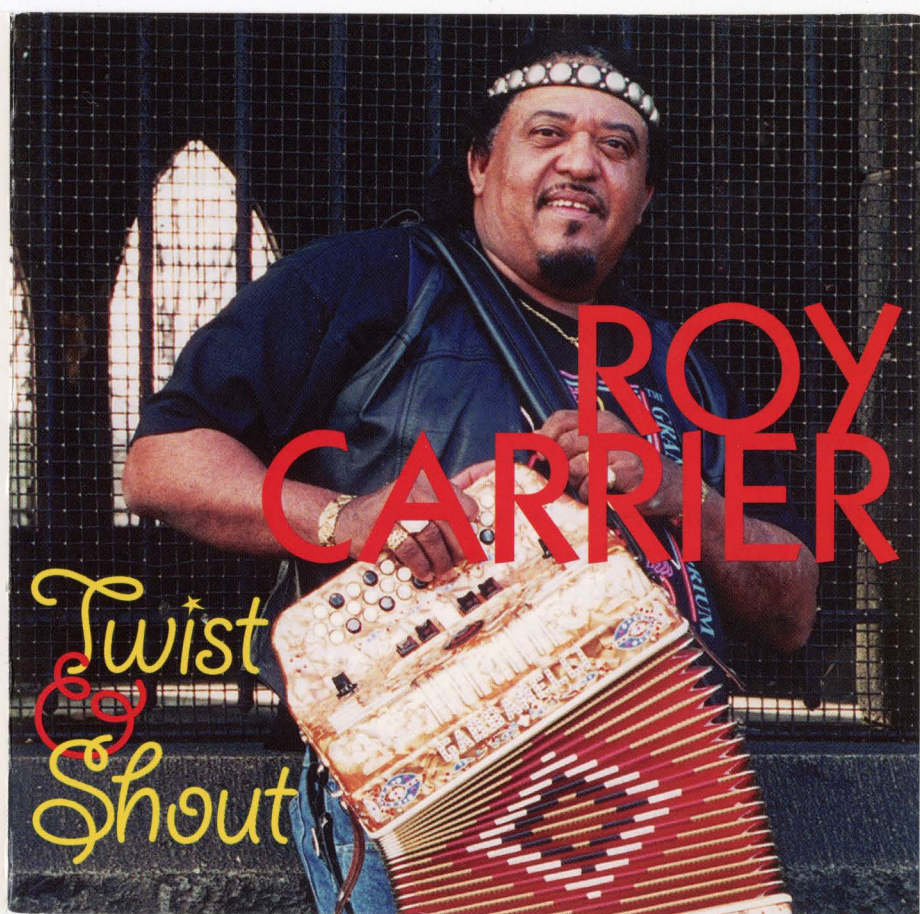
# Twist & Shout

ROR004

## ROY CARRIER

Studio recordings	2/23/98	<b>Severn Studios</b> , Crownsville, Md.
Engineer		<b>David Earl</b>
Mixed		<b>David Earl</b>
Live recordings	2/18/98	<b>New Haven Lounge</b> , Baltimore, Md
Produced by		<b>Wayne Kahn, Right on Rhythm, Inc.</b>
Mastered		<b>Bill Wolf, Wolf Productions</b> , Falls Church, Va.
Photo		<b>Carole Benicewicz</b>
Cover design		<b>Raleigh Schein and Jerry Litofsky</b>
Accordion, vocal		<b>Roy Carrier</b>
Guitar, backup vocal		<b>Pandy "Guitar Gable Jr." Perrodin</b>
Bass		<b>Tony Bush</b>
Rubboard, back up vocal		<b>Phillip Carrier</b>
Drummer		<b>Calvin Sam</b>

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**P**ROBABLY no artist living today deserves to inherit the title of "King of Zydeco" more than Roy Carrier. He, more than anyone else, has perpetuated the music, and thus the memory of his mentor, the great accordionist and acknowledged King of Zydeco, Clifton Chenier. Chenier died at the age of 62 in 1987. If one were to examine all the 60-odd singles issued by this late legendary figure, beginning with his first release in 1954, "Louisiana Stomp" and "Cliston (sic) Blues" (Imperial 5352, Elko 920) as by Cliston Chanier (sic) and his Kings of the South, one would discover the thing that Roy and Clifton share in common—at least one slow blues side. As a matter of fact, Roy and Clifton, being kindred spirits, would consider themselves blues men playing Zydeco rather than the other way around. This is what sets them apart from most of the upstart, Generation-X Zydeco performers.

**R**EAL Zydeco is blues-based, and anyone who picks up a Cajun one-note accordion (usually of one key, which produces one note when pulled in one direction and another on the return) cannot play the blues, because blues progressions involve key changes. These players, indeed, can be crowd pleasers, but what they are playing is a hybrid—French music with an R&B beat. However, it's not the genuine article.

**O**NE can count on his hands the number of authentic Zydeco players in South Louisiana—Geno Delafosse, Jude Taylor, C.J. Chenier, Lynn August, Nathan Williams, Thomas Fields, Boozoo Chavis, Fernest Arceneaux, and of course, Roy Carrier. The first five play the piano accordion, a daunting instrument which is formidable in weight, size and

complexity and is capable of almost infinite blues variations. Whereas the latter group play the triple-note (usually the F, D-flat, E-flat), which can handle its share of the blues. In fact, Roy would probably be playing the piano key had he not lost part of his right index finger in a freak well pulley accident at fourteen. But only in this regard does he diverge from the master of Zydeco.

**F**ROM childhood Roy had been hearing Zydeco from its originators at house parties, fish fries and soirees. Often the entertainment would be provided by a mere duo, an accordionist or fiddler accompanied by a rubboard (frottoir) player. Perhaps Clifton and his brother Cleveland or fiddlers BeBe or Calvin Carriere (all cousins of Roy) or even Roy's father Warren accompanied on rhythm by a very young Roy. This *La La Music*, with minimal lyrics and a steady infectious dance beat, invariably provided more than enough impetus to liven things up. Roy began playing guitar and accordion as a teenager and even had his own band by the age of 18 performing R&B in the area club circuit. At 25, he was finally able to purchase his own accordion from the newly opened music store, The Sound Center, run by the late producer, Lee Lavergne in Church Point. Roy was soon playing Zydeco in an era dominated by youth-oriented disco music and well before it became "cool" again. Roy eventually recorded four fine albums on Lee's Lanor label in the late 80's and early 90's. After Roy acquired the sprawling wooden roadhouse, Offshore Lounge (christened in honor of 15 years as a roughneck in the Gulf) in Lawtell in 1981, it quickly became a Zydeco shrine along with nearby Richard's and Slim's Y-Ki-Ki in Opelousas. The Offshore still hosts a regular Thursday night jam which can involve as many as six local bands.

**T**HIS newest CD, "Twist & Shout," demonstrates just how Roy has remained loyal to his Zydeco roots. In his stage show, Roy often reprises the music of his early youth when he invites his bassist and guitarist (sometimes even his drummer) to sit one out while he launches into an "ole time Zydeco number." A live example is found here, his now-classic, "What You Gonna Do (with a man like that)," and the similar "Backbone Zydeco." In addition, Roy pays homage to Chenier by selecting four of his signature pieces, two of them French. Another live cut from the disc is "Jambalaya," made famous by C&W icon Hank Williams; however, few realize that Williams actually appropriated the melody from an old 40's Cajun song, "Grand Texas," which had long been part of Chenier's repertoire before it was Anglicized. Also included are two hot dance tunes, "Ma Tit Fille (My Little Girl)" and "Josephine Par Se (sic: C'est) Ma Femme (Josephine's My Woman)." The former rocker was first recorded in 1955 as "Ay-Tete Fee (Specialty 552)." Roy's version favors the souped-up arrangement by Buckwheat Zydeco's Stanley Dural (a longtime keyboardist in Chenier's band) as featured in the soundtrack of the film, "The Big Easy." "I do the song both ways," says Roy emphatically. The latter of the two songs was recorded rather late in Chenier's career, in 1970, by Arhoolie's Chris Strachwitz, but had long been a Zydeco standard under an assortment of titles. Finally, "Bye, Bye Black Girl" has its origins in a 1966 Chenier session which yielded "Black Gal (Bayou 707, Bell 811)," although Roy's rendition, which he learned from his father, is much breezier and up-tempo than its rather plodding predecessor.

**R**OY could pay no finer tribute to the King of Zydeco than by sticking uncompromisingly to Chenier's blues-based approach and Roy delivers the goods with no less than three straight-ahead selections: "Do Right Sometime," "Two For the Road," and "I Want To Thank You." On the last item Roy again demonstrates his uncanny ability to make the accordion sound like a country blues harp, a la Jimmy Reed, much in the same manner as the recently late Rockin' Sidney Simien, who also like Roy, could play some mean harmonica on occasion.

**R**OY feels it's up to him to keep the tradition alive. "When I first came up in the 70's, I was playing for an audience of old timers. But, luckily, a lot of new people are discovering what real Zydeco is all about—the blues. I guess I'll play the true stuff as long as there are people willing enough to listen. But catch me quick 'cause I could very well be the end of the line."

LARRY BENESIEWICZ

*Real Blues*, Baltimore Blues Society

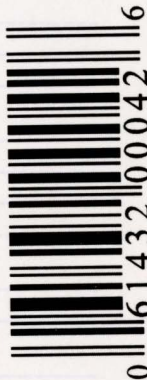




Twist &amp; Shout

## ROY CARRIER

<b>1. Have Some Fun, at the Offshore Lounge</b>	2:58	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>2. Do Right Sometime</b>	2:47	C.Chenier	Tradition Music obo Bug Music
<b>3. Back Bone Zydeco</b>	3:44	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>4. I Want to Thank you</b>	4:49	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>5. Bye Bye Black Girl</b>	2:55	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>6. My Little Woman (Wanted to Fight)</b>	3:02	Roy Carrier	Write On Rhythm
<b>7. The Zydeco Beat</b>	3:10	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>8. Josephine Par Se Ma Femme</b>	2:57	C.Chenier	Tradition Music
<b>9. Two for the Road</b>	4:11	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>10. Been Gone Too Long</b>	3:26	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>11. If You Want to Dance, You've Gotta Twist and Shout</b>	3:13	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>12. Ma Tit Fille</b>	3:17	Stanley Dural Jr.	Whitewing Music
<b>13. Show You How To Love</b>	4:29	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>14. Hot Pants</b>	3:06	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>15. What You Gonna Do With a Man Like That</b>	4:50	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>16. Jambalaya</b>	4:35	Hank Williams	Acuff/Rose Music
<b>17. I Don't Know What You Want</b>	5:22	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>18. Some Real Zydeco</b>	2:15	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm
<b>19. Good Night</b>	4:01	Roy Carrier	Write on Rhythm



**AS YOU'RE IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT  
RIGHT ON RHYTHM  
AS LONG AS YOU DO AS**

ROR004  
Made in the  
USA

Roy Carrier and the  
Night Rockers

Twist & Shout