Nathan Abshire – French Blues (1993)

1. Pine Grove Blues 2. Kaplan Waltz 3. French Blues 4. New Orleans Waltz 5. Pine Grove Boogie 6. Hathaway Waltz 7. Step It Fast 8. Jolie, Petite Juilette 9. Choupique Two Step 10. La Valse De Belezere 11. Pine Grove Blues #2 12. La Valse De Holly Beach 13. Iota Two Step 14. La Valse De Bayou Tech 15. Musical Five Special 16. Avalon Waltz 17. Tee Per Coine (Keep A' Knocking, But You Can't Come In) 18. The New Jolie Blon 19. Point De Lou Two-Step 20. Texas Waltz 21. Lu Lu Boogie 22. Carolina Blues 23. Shamrock Waltz 24. Mama Rosin 25. L.S.U. French Waltz 26. Crying Pine Grove Blues 27. Red Rock Waltz 28. Cannon Ball Special Nathan Abshire - Accordion, Composer, Vocals James Baker - Bass Dewey Balfa - Vocals Roy Broussard - Vocals Atlas Fruge - Steel Base Wilson Granger - Fiddle Oziet Kegley - Drums Will Kegley - Fiddle, Violin, Vocals Harry LaFleur - Guitar Little Yvonne LeBlanc - Vocals Jake Miere - Vocals Ernest Thibodeaux - Guitar, Vocals

Recorded between 1949 and 1956, this is prime Cajun music. The fidelity is slightly better than the best Cajun discs of the 1930s, but the approach is still satisfyingly raw and spontaneous, with waltzes, boogies, and blues. A steel guitar is present to varying degrees on most of the tracks, giving the fiddle/accordion-dominated arrangements a bit more flavor. This has a great spontaneous feel that stops short (but not that short) of raggedness, highlighted by Abshire's joyous calls and asides. Includes his big "hit," "Pine Grove Blues," although a hit by the standards of this regional style only constituted about three thousand copies sold. With 28 tracks and 78 minutes running time, it's the usual excellent value for an Arhoolie reissue. --- Richie Unterberger, Rovi

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