Written by bluesever Tuesday, 05 March 2013 17:20 - Last Updated Tuesday, 27 October 2020 10:08

Clifton Chenier - King Of The Bayous (1970)



01. Tu Le Ton Son Ton (Every Now And Then) — 3:47 02. Hard To Love Someone — 3:25 03. Who Can Your Good Man Be (Brown Skin Wom) — 3:45 04. Zodico Two-Step (Zydeco Two-Step, French Two-Step) — 3:22 05. Going La Maison — 3:42 06. I Believe I'll Go Back Home — 3:26 07. Release Me (From My Sin) — 4:00 08. Grand Mamou (Big Mamou) — 3:25 09. Ton Na Na (Aunt Na Na) — 3:07 10. I'm Coming Home (To See My Mother) — 3:19 11. Josephine Par Se Ma Femme — 3:12 12. It's Christmas Time — 4:16 13. Coming Home Tomorrow — 3:24 14. Me And My Chauffeur — 3:12 15. Mo Veux Connaitre (Where She Slept) — 3:45 16. Tired Of Crying Over You — 2:40 17. Clifton's Blues — 3:32 18. Let's Rock A While — 3:31 Clifton Chenier (vocals, accordion); Antoine Victor, Raymond Monett, Cleveland Keyes (guitar); Elmore Nixon (piano); Joe Morris (bass); Robert Peter (drums); Cleveland Chenier (rubboard).

After gaining initial notoriety in the '50s and '60s on Specialty Records and a variety of small Texas and Louisiana labels, Zydeco King Clifton Chenier brought the blues-fueled Cajun music he practically invented to Chris Strachwitz's roots label Arhoolie, subsequently recording a series of fine albums including 1970's King of the Bayous. Featuring brother and longtime partner Cleveland Chenier on rubboard, Robert St. Judy on drums, Joe Morris on bass and Antoine Victor on guitar, King of the Bayous includes Chenier's standard blend of zydeco two-step, waltzes and blues, and provides an excellent taste of what the band no doubt played on countless one-niters along the Louisiana-Texas Gulf Coast. Zydeco-brand blues predominates with Chenier originals "Hard to Love Someone," "Who Can Your Good Man Be" and "I Am Coming Home," in addition to a cover of the honky-tonk weeper "Release Me." Offering a contrast to the blues and something for the dancers, the band lays down a lively two-step beat on "Tu Le Ton Son Ton," "Josephine Par Se Ma Femme" and "Zodico Two Step." Throughout the varied set, Chenier's irrepressible vocals and accordion playing stand out. A nice sample of bayou zydeco by one of its finest and most original practitioners. --- Stephen Cook, allmusic.com

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