Cajun RoundUp - Cajun Honky Tonk (1995)

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1 Nathan Abshire - Crying Pinegrove Blues 2 Nathan Abshire - Chere Te Mon 3 Lawrence play 4 Lawrence Walker - Country Waltz 5 The Texas Walker - Mamou Two-Step Melody Boys - Old Time Waltz play 6 The Texas Melody Boys - Ain't No More 7 Harry Choates - Valse de Lake Charles 8 Harry Choates - Jolie Blon's Gone 9 Floyd LeBlanc - Orphan Waltz 10 Floyd LeBlanc - Louisiana Stomp 11 Lawrence Walker - Tu Le Du Po La Mam (Both For the Same) 12 Lawrence Walker - Ton Papa Ta Mama Ma Sta Da All (Your Mom and Dad Threw Me Out) 13 Lawrence Walker - Evangeline Waltz 14 Lawrence Walker - Reno Waltz 15 Lawrence Walker - Boscoe Stomp 16 The Musical Four Plus One - Tran La Ezy 17 Vincent & Cagley - Lawtell Two-Step 18 Elise Deshotel with Dewey Balfa - La Valse de Bon Baurche 19 Elise Deshotel with Dewey Balfa - Le Two-Step de Ville Platte 20 Elise Deshotel with Dewey Balfa - La Valse de Courage 21 Elise Deshotel with Dewey Balfa - La Valse de Tamper Tate 22 Shuk Richard & Marie Falcon - Le Cote Farouche de la Vic 23 Shuk Richard & Marie Falcon - Jole Brun 24 Two-SteShuk Richard & Marie Falcon - Madame Entelle Two-Step 25 Lawrence Walker - Waltz of Regret 26 Lawrence Walker - Wandering Aces Special 27 The Boggie Beat'll Getcha If You Don't Watch Out. Personnel:

Dewey Balfa (vocals, fiddle); Pee Wee Pitre, Jake Miere, Marie Falcon, Edwin Duhon, Mitch Davy, Lawrence Walker, Nathan Abshire (vocals); Elise Deshotel (slide guitar, steel guitar); Maurice Barzas (accordion); Esther Deshotel (drums).

Drawn from the vaults of the Khoury's label and its Lyric Records subsidiary, the 26 sides here date from the late 1940's and early 1950's. This is some of the best documentation available of what was a thriving music scene, spawned by the absence of younger players during the mid-1940's (they were off fighting the war), leaving the field to older musicians, who played Cajun music and found an audience in local clubs and an outlet in these two labels. Nathan Abshire's 1949 hit "Pinegrove Blues" got the ball rolling, and all of the 26 sides here (including Abshire's "Crying Pinegrove Blues") were spawned from that beginning. The sides here, in addition to Abshire's "Crying Pinegrove Blues," include various waltzes, stomps and blues laments by the Texas Melody Boys, Harry Choates ("Valse de Lake Charles," "Jolie Blon's Gone"), Floyd LeBlanc, Elise Deshotel with Dewey Balfa (his first four records), Lawrence

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Walker (his five earliest sides), and Shuk Richard and Marie Falcon. The focus may be history, but sound is also astonishingly good, incidentally. --- Bruce Eder, AMG

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