

BAYOU ROUX

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A RECIPE LIKE NO OTHER

Like the many tasty ingredients in a simmering pot of gumbo, the Cajun rock band Bayou Roux has blended years of diverse musical backgrounds into a unique sound that they like to call the "Cajun Commotion™".

Founded in Houston, Texas in 1992 by Keith Dupuis, Mike Bourgeois and Ted Lee, all three from the Lafayette, LA area, Bayou Roux has grown from what they call a "goofy little garage band that came out of nowhere" into one of the most recognizable, good-time party bands on the US Gulf Coast.

Keith Dupuis is an eclectic mix of Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith and classic Louisiana accordion legends such as Iry LeJeune, Lawrence Walker and Clifton Chenier. Ted Lee is a baby-boomer bassist brought up on groups like The Beatles, Deep Purple, Steely Dan and Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers. Mike Bourgeois is a former drum corps and USAF military drummer, influenced by the rhythms of Van Halen, Rush, Country and sophisticated Jazz. Ken Reynolds, a true guitar virtuoso who joined the group shortly after its inception, has played it all from Cajun to Country, Rhythm & Blues to Rock and Jazz. Dwayne Boehnemann, the newbie of the group, is a honky tonk style keyboardist who has country in his veins having grown up on a farm tractor tuned in to Floyd Cramer, Boots Randolph, Johnny Cash and Merle Haggard.

What a recipe. What a sound. Fans have found that a pinch of rock, a scoop of county and a heapin' helpin' of down-home Cajun/Zydeco heritage heated to the boiling point makes for a musical experience like no other.

GOOD TIME MUSIC

There's just something special about the rockin' Cajun music done Bayou Roux style. "My Dad would be the first to tell you that some of the stuff that we do with Bayou Roux is a little too...out there" said Keith Dupuis. "We all respect the old-style Cajun music, but it's also been said that if music doesn't grow, it stagnates and dies. Let's just say our brand of Cajun music is not pushing up daisies, at least not yet."

The high-energy tunes of Bayou Roux combine the best of French Cajun & Zydeco classics with the beat and heat of contemporary and classic rock, jazz, country, and other musical genres. "Ours is happy music that appeals to all ages," said Ted Lee, one of the primary songwriters in the group. "Even when it's not sung in English, the songs are simple, happy and the audience can relate to it."

"We think that we've pushed Cajun music into a very progressive area with a pretty unique sound," said Mike Bourgeois. Ken Reynolds agrees, saying that their musical style is, "fun, uplifting, and makes people happy."

Though a die-hard country boy, Dwayne Boehnemann enjoys the Bayou Roux brand of Cajun rock. "Every song that we do has a kind of energy that I can channel into my playing," he said. "This Cajun stuff always gets me pumped up."

MAKIN' RECORDS

After being together for four years the guys felt that it was time for Bayou Roux to make its first record, so in September 1996 the boys made the trip back to the Bayou land of Lafayette, LA and to La Louisianne Studios, where they turned out the album "Have A Taste" basically over a weekend. "Have A Taste", consisting of eight cover tunes and three originals, was laid down on two-inch tape and originally released only on cassette. Though the album missed the start of the digital revolution, "Have A Taste" hit the mark for fans of Bayou Roux.

In early 1999, Bayou Roux entered the studio again for the group's second record titled, "Pass The Rice". On this album, the group recorded eight original songs and three covers "Pass The Rice" was recorded at Nexus Studios in Houston under the supervision of producer Duane Propes of "Little Texas" fame.

In 2002, the group hit the studio once again to record their third album entitled, "Bayou Groove". Nicknamed "Groove" by the band, the album featured 13 original songs and one cover tune. The album was musically diverse, showcasing the songwriting of the group and crossing over many styles of music. Recorded at "The Studio" in downtown Lufkin, Texas, and guided by producer Ravyn Dixon, "Bayou Groove" offered a somewhat different sound from the group's previous recordings.

Itching to record again at the end of 2005, Bayou Roux decided that it was time to come home musically. The album "Have Another Taste" was released in April, 2006. The album included several fan favorite songs that were not previously recorded by the group as well as updated versions of some of the tunes from the original "Have A Taste" album, released ten-years before. "Have Another Taste" was recorded in the same spirit as "Have A Taste" had been, as an ensemble, over a couple of weekends and, for the first time, featuring Dwayne on keyboard and vocals.

BAYOU BROTHERHOOD

One might think that working together since 1992 would tend to make these guys a bit, well...bored, but honestly, nothing could be further from the truth. "You know, the best part of being in Bayou Roux is getting to play music with your friends and having a good laugh, because this is still a lot of fun for all of us," said Ted.

"It's like a brotherhood," said Keith. "Through the years we have had our share of little disagreements, but no one has ever really felt threatened and it's still a joy to show up and play every gig with these guys. They are all pros and know what they're doing."

"When you're in the band, you're a part of a family," Ken said. "Good friends and good food . . . like what we get at the festivals, crawfish boils and parties that we play."

"You know, as busy as we all are, the guys hardly ever seem to be able to get together away from the music," Mike said. "But when we are together, it's the best."

We've all become best friends," said Dwayne, "I'm the newest member of the group and I fully expected to be treated differently but, from the first day, I've always been considered a full brother by everyone in the group."

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

"There are so many options open to us today," says Ted. "This technology stuff is really amazing. We still get regular radio airplay in the US and we get a lot of attention worldwide through the internet. We have friends and fans worldwide now and you just never know where the next opportunity will come from. Today, we are working toward live internet broadcasts, podcasting, radio programming and international touring. Believe me, there are a lot of ideas being tossed around now."

CAJUN COMMOTION

"You know, this group came out of nowhere and I'm really proud of what we've accomplished, but mostly, I'm happy that we're still great friends after all these years," said Ted. "We're all just having fun making good music and when it stops being fun . . . we'll just quit." Fans hope that the fun continues for a long, long time.

<http://bayouroux.com>