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Louisiana Mid Price Music Series AVAILABLE NOW

CLIFTON CHENIER Comin' Home



Only a few artists come to mind when you talk about those who single-handedly gave birth to a musical form. Bob Wills invented western-swing, the 13th Floor Elevators came up with psychedelic rock, Dick Dale invented the surf guitar and then there's Clifton Chenier and zydeco.

Clifton's band was known as the Red Hot Louisiana Band and they were touring with famed bluesman Jimmy Reed when this CD was recorded out in California.

Clifton came from the heart of bayou country, Opelousas, Louisiana. Born in 1925, he was the son of a popular regional accordion player who played slo-drags, waltzes, two-steps and la-la's at dances and other functions. While fooling around on his father's accordion, Clifton caught the eye of his uncle "Big Chenier" who in turn, bought him his first squeeze box. Clifton's brother Cleveland started playing washboard and before long they were backing up Clarence "Bon Ton" Garlow at gigs. The Chenier brothers were getting lots of stage experience but didn't put their sound on record until 1954's release of "Louisiana Stomp" b/w "Clifton Blues" (they misspelled his name) for Elko records. Nothing happened so they tried again with "Ay-Tete-Fe" (Hey Little Girl), b/w "Boppin' The Rock" for the mighty Specialty Records of Los Angeles. This was a hit on the national R&B charts, thus kicking off his career.

Clifton and his band, the aptly named Zydeco Ramblers, were now playing to audiences of home sick Creole peoples from coast to coast. In between tours, Clifton recorded for Zinn, Argo, Checker, Arhoolie, Home Cooking and many other labels. During the 1960's folk revival Chenier played lots of festivals and college campuses, introducing his music to a predominantly white audience for the first time. He even played London's Royal Albert Hall. As his name got bigger, so did the venues.

By the '70s there were many bands that emulated Chenier's style. Clifton died in 1987 and will forever be known as the "*King Of Zydeco*".

Richard Lambert 1998

- 1 Intro
- 2 We're Gonna Party
- 3 I Don't Know Lafayette
- 4 Keep A Knockin'
- 5 You Don't Call Me
- 6 Got Me Where You Want me
- 7 What'd I Say
- 8 Caldonia
- 9 I'm Comin' Home
- 10 Kansas City
- 11 Chu Chu Boogie
- 12 Jole Blon
- 13 Night Time Is The Right Time
- 14 Let The Good Times Roll

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