

BeauSoleil Avec Michael Doucet to perform cajun dance music Feb. 20 in Price Center Ballroom at UCSD

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BEAUSOLEIL AVEC MICHAEL DOUCET TO PERFORM CAJUN DANCE MUSIC FEB. 20 IN PRICE CENTER BALLROOM AT UCSD

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet will perform Cajun dance music at 8 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Price Center Ballroom at the University of California, San Diego. The high-spirited Cajun sounds with fiddle and accordion invite dance and the ballroom dance floor will be open.

A Prairie Home Companion's Garrison Keillor calls the Louisiana group "the best Cajun band in the world," and Rolling Stone says it's "the best damn dance band you'll ever hear."

The band was recently nominated for its seventh Grammy Award for its new album, L'Amour ou la Folie! (Love or Folly).

Michael Doucet is lead vocalist, songwriter and fiddler. Band members include Michael's brother David Doucet, guitar and vocals; Jimmy Breaux, Acadian accordion; Al Tharp, bass, banjo; Billy Ware, percussion, and Tommy Alesi, drums.

"BeauSoleil has pushed Cajun music into adventurous new territory, writes the Washington Post, "absorbing zydeco, rock and Caribbean influences into the tradition and adding striking new compositions by bandleader Michael Doucet."

Doucet formed the band in 1975. Since then BeauSoleil has toured worldwide, including two performances at Carnegie Hall; recorded more than a dozen albums, received seven Grammy nominations and performed the soundtrack for the film, Belizaire The Cajun. It has made regular radio appearances on A Prairie Home Companion and accompanied Mary Chapin Carpenter on her Grammy Award-winning Down at the Twist and Shout.

"Even as BeauSoleil stretches the basic Cajun sound and pushes at musical boundaries, it never veers far from the crucial values of family, friendship and community that have kept the Cajun people and culture alive for 400 years," writes the Los Angeles Times.

Cajuns are descendants of French settlers from the provinces of Brittany, Normandy, and Picardy. Doucet has dedicated his career to preserving and "recycling," as he calls it, many of the old Cajun tunes. In doing so, he insists upon an uncompromising demand for authenticity, refusing to sing in English, fearing this would further dilute the culture he is trying so hard to preserve.

The UCSD performance will include numbers from L'Amour ou la Folie!, a diverse assortment of Doucet originals along with Cajun and Creole classics, blues, South Louisiana swamp-pop, New Orleans jazz, and Afro-Caribbean material.

BeauSoleil aims its music at tickling the dance bones and reviving up the body's juices to move. The band plays, as the Salt Lake City Deseret News writes, "seductive rhythms that shout out 'Dance!' If your body doesn't sway to these tunes, call the coroner."

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet's Feb. 20 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. Tickets are \$16 general admission, \$14 for faculty, staff and senior citizens, and \$12 for students. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office, 534-8497, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information, call the UCSD University Events Office at 534-4090.

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