

= Grammy Award for Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album =

The Grammy Award for Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album was an honor presented to recording artists at the 50th, 51st, 52nd and 53rd Annual Grammy Awards (2008 ? 2011) for quality zydeco or cajun music albums . The Grammy Awards , an annual ceremony that was established in 1958 and originally called the Gramophone Awards , are presented by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences of the United States to " honor artistic achievement , technical proficiency and overall excellence in the recording industry , without regard to album sales or chart position " .

Beginning in 2001 , advocates began lobbying for a Grammy category specifically for cajun and zydeco music . Award recipients , in chronological order , included Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience , BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet , Buckwheat Zydeco , and Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band ; no artist received the award more than once . Awards were presented to the engineers , mixers , and / or producers in addition to the performing artists . The group Pine Leaf Boys holds the record for the most nominations , with four . Though nominated each year the honor was presented , the group failed to receive an award . Doucet and Cedric Watson each received three nominations . 2009 marked the only year in which a musician received more than one nomination as well as the only time two artists were nominated for works appearing on the same album ? Doucet was nominated as a member of BeauSoleil for Live at the 2008 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival as well as for his solo album From Now On , and Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys were also nominated for their contribution to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival compilation album . Many nominated artists were from Louisiana , specifically Lafayette .

In 2011 , the Academy announced the retirement of the award category . Beginning in 2012 , zydeco or cajun recordings were eligible for the Best Regional Roots Music Album category .

= = Background = =

According to Cody Daigle of The Daily Advertiser , advocates lobbied for nearly seven years in an attempt to create a Grammy category specifically for zydeco and cajun music . The effort was led by musician Terrance Simien , along with his wife and manager Cynthia . Mitch Landrieu , Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana at the time , also supported the effort . Cynthia , a trustee of the Memphis chapter of the Recording Academy , claimed hundreds of dollars and hours were invested in the lobbying effort she described as an " uphill battle " . Prior to the Best Zydeco or Cajun Music category , works in the genre competed in the Best Contemporary Folk Album or Best Traditional Folk Album categories .

= = Recipients = =

For the 50th Annual Grammy Awards (2008) , Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album nominees included Geno Delafosse & French Rockin ' Boogie for Le Cowboy Creole , Lisa Haley for King Cake , The Lost Bayou Ramblers for Live : À La Blue Moon , the French language cajun band Pine Leaf Boys for their second album Blues de Musicien , Racines for Racines , Roddie Romero and the Hub City All @-@ Stars for The La Louisianne Sessions , and Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience for Live ! Worldwide . Of the seven nominees , only one was based outside Lafayette , Louisiana . Le Cowboy Creole , Delafosse 's fifth album , contained cover versions of Chuck Berry 's " Promised Land " , the Commodores ' " Easy " , The Everly Brothers ' " When Will I Be Loved " , Ronnie Milsap 's " (There 's) No Gettin ' Over Me " , and Van Morrison 's " Domino " . Blues de Musicien included a French adaptation of the country music song " The Wild Side of Life " . Live ! Worldwide contained recordings of live performances from around the world during Simien 's 25 @-@ year career , including " The Star @-@ Spangled Banner " and traditional songs such as " Zydeco Boogaloo " and Boozoo Chavis ' " Uncle Bud " . Simien and the Zydeco Experience performed as the opening act to the pre @-@ telecast for the 50th Grammy Awards ceremony . The award was presented to Terrance Simien and the Zydeco Experience , members of which included

Jose Alvarez , Ralph Fontenot , Keith Sonnier , William Terry , and Danny Williams . Joshua Murrell was also recognized as the engineer and producer of the album . Simien was described as " exuberant " during his acceptance speech in which he acknowledged the five other nominees . Simien and his band were also honored by Billboard , which ranked their live performance in support of the album as one of the top ten acts of the year .

2009 nominees included BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet for Live at the 2008 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival , Michael Doucet for From Now On , Pine Leaf Boys for Homage Au Passé , Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys for Live at the 2008 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival , and Cedric Watson for Cedric Watson . Doucet , the founder , lead singer and fiddler of BeauSoleil , is the only artist to receive more than one nomination for Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album within the same year . According to Doucet , From Now On was recorded " live in three sessions with no rehearsals , overdubs , or song lists . " The album contains original tracks , covers by Hoagy Carmichael and Allen Toussaint , and standards such as " St. Louis Blues " and " You Gotta Move " . The award was presented to BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet . Recipients included Doucet , band members Tommy Alesi , Jimmy Breaux , David Doucet , Mitchell Reed , Billy Ware , and Ben Williams , along with Eli Kelly and Woods Drinkwater as engineers . BeauSoleil 's set was recorded in April 2008 and released with the group 's approval without further involvement . According to Michael Doucet , the album " was on iTunes , and then all of a sudden it was nominated for a Grammy . "

Nominees for the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards in 2010 included BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet for Alligator Purse , Buckwheat Zydeco (stage name for Stanley Dural , Jr .) for Lay Your Burden Down , The Magnolia Sisters for Stripped Down , Pine Leaf Boys for Live at 2009 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival , and Cedric Watson et Bijou Créole for L 'Ésprit Créole . Alligator Purse included guest appearances by Garth Hudson of The Band , Natalie Merchant of 10 @, @ 000 Maniacs , Roswell Rudd , and John Sebastian of The Lovin ' Spoonful . Lay Your Burden Down reunited Dural with producer Steve Berlin and contained versions of Captain Beefheart 's " Too Much Time " , Jimmy Cliff 's " Let Your Yeah Be Yeah " , Gov 't Mule 's " Lay Your Burden Down " , Memphis Minnie 's " When the Levee Breaks " , and Bruce Springsteen 's " Back in Your Arms " . Members of The Magnolia Sisters , an all @-@ female cajun group of multi @-@ instrumentalists , included Anya Burgess , Ann Savoy , Lisa Trahan and Jane Vidrine . The award was presented to Buckwheat Zydeco , members of which included Reginald Dural , Stanley " Buckwheat " Dural , Michael Melchione , Kevin Menard , Olivier Scoazec , Curtis Watson , and Lee Allen Zeno . David Farrell and Steven Maxwell Berlin were also honored as the engineer / mixer and producer of the album , respectively .

For the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards (2011) , the nominees were Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band for Zydeco Junkie , Feufollet for En Couleurs , D. L. Menard for Happy Go Lucky , the Pine Leaf Boys for Back Home , and Cedric Watson et Bijou Créole for Creole Moon : Live at the Blue Moon Saloon . 2011 marked the fourth consecutive nomination for the Pine Leaf Boys . Group member Wilson Savoy was unable to attend the award ceremony , but admitted the nominations have " acted as vindication " of their " new @-@ traditionalist sound " . Zydeco Junkie , released through Carrier 's own record label Swampadelic Records , featured his " trademark party songs " and an " accordion @-@ flavored " cover of " Movin ' On Up " , the theme song for the television series The Jeffersons . Geno Delafosse and Jamie Bergeron made guest appearances on the album . The award was presented to Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band .

= = Category retirement = =

In 2011 , the category Best Zydeco or Cajun Music Album was eliminated along with thirty others due to a major overhaul by the Recording Academy . Four additional categories in the American Roots Music field were eliminated (Best Contemporary Folk Album , Best Hawaiian Music Album , Best Native American Music Album , Best Traditional Folk Album) . Zydeco and cajun works became eligible for the Best Regional Roots Music Album category . Chubby Carrier was reportedly " broken @-@ hearted " by the news , and concerned that the category 's elimination would not give

the music genre the attention deserved . Carrier stated : " This category inspired musicians to fight for the music . It strengthened us . I 'd say to all the young zydeco musicians out there ; don 't give up this fight . " Simien also expressed sadness and called the elimination " a disappointment for local music " . Showing signs of optimism , Terrance Simien said : " The category might be gone today , but we 'll get it back . "

= = = General = = =

= = = Specific = = =