

GROUYAN GOMBO

New Album Beaubassin



“Led by valiant accordionist Harlan Johnson, Grouyan Gombo offers a fresh take on the music of Louisiana. It’s rootsy garage rock, soulful vocals, country guitar, bluesy violin, and dance hall drums. A group with attitude!”

Yves Bernard, Le Devoir



BIO

Renowned Montreal-based band Grouyan Gombo conjure a sound from the depths of Louisiana Cajun musical roots, and informed by their songs of today. The ensemble features the bright accordion and soulful vocals of leader Harlan Johnson juxtaposed against sweet twin fiddle harmonies, and driven by expertly rendered Cajun rhythms. While the bilingual band members descend from French and English speaking families, their vocals draw from a deep well of Cajun, Creole and North American French traditions.

For more than twenty years, Grouyan Gombo has delved deeply into traditional ballads, country inflected one steps, Zydeco two steps and Cajun waltzes, music that embodies the warm, festive atmosphere of a busy dance floor.

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CONTACT

Web: <https://linktr.ee/grouyangombo>

Booking: Harlan Johnson - grouyangombo@gmail.com

Music:

<https://grouyangombo.bandcamp.com>

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/1LgIUVeLi1vTWGohZsOwfE>

<https://music.apple.com/zm/artist/grouyan-gombo/257523334>

DISCOGRAPHY



“Du très bon Cajun venu de l’est de l’Amérique. Des arrangements très intéressants jouer par des musiciens de grande qualité.”

- *Yves Lambert*

Beaubassin - 2026



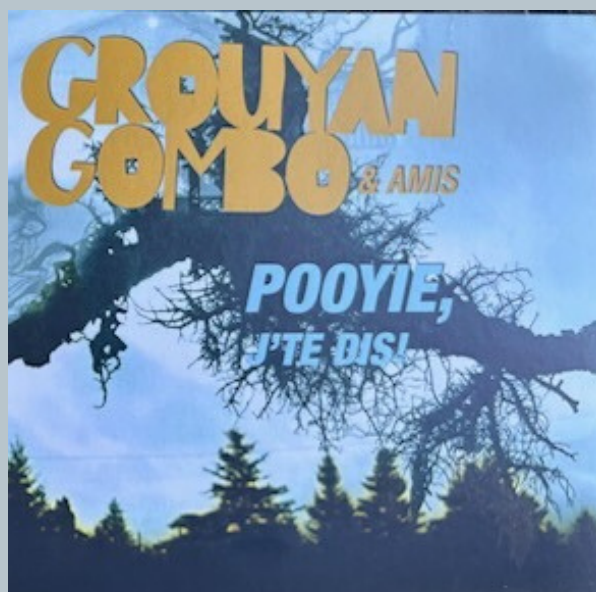
Pooyie, J'te dis - 2014



“Finally, a great Montreal Cajun band! This album announces a new, important voice in roots music in Quebec.”

- Rob Lutes

Betsy Stomp - 2006



“This thirteen-song journey to Cajun country is an excellent opportunity to rediscover this style of music! Beautiful vocal harmonies, masterful rhythm section.”

Le Net Blues

GROUPE GOMBO

THE BAND



Michael Jerome Browne - fiddle



Guillaume Jabbour - guitar



Christina Beaudry-Cardenas - drums



Harlan Johnson - accordion



Michael Ball - fiddle



Carl Rufh - bass

GROUYAN GOMBO

HARLAN'S STORY

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In 1987, I was living in New York as the recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts grant to occupy a painting studio at the PS1 international artists' center. It was then that one day I found myself in Central Park listening to the Cajun band Beausoleil. This music disturbed me in a beautiful way, and in their vocal expressions I detected a surprising echo of my youth in New Brunswick. After returning to Montreal, I nurtured this new passion through apprenticeships in Louisiana with Cajun and Creole masters and private lessons with renowned folklorist Danielle Martineau, also founder of the group Rockabayou. Nevertheless, I remain largely a self-taught musician. Over the years, Grouyan Gombo has been composed of a succession of members including Benoit Leblanc, Jordan Officer, Susie Arioli, Bernadette Fortin, and Shawn Pitre.



Today, we are a group six musicians, featuring two violins playing harmonies in the “twin-fiddle” style that characterizes Cajun music and a related style, Texas swing. The current members are: Christina Beaudry-Cardenas (drums), Michael Jerome Browne and Michael Ball (violins and vocals), Guillaume Jabbour (guitar and vocals), and Carl Rufh (bass and vocals). All of the members grew up in Quebec, except for me, who spent much of my youth in New Brunswick before moving to Montreal to attend university. Among our members is violinist Michael Ball, who has mastered this style through his experience in Danielle Martineau's Cajun-Quebécois band “Rockabayou” in the 1990s and 2000s. Like me, he has made numerous trips to Louisiana to recharge his batteries. Michael Jerome Browne, also a violinist, has received numerous awards for his acoustic blues and American roots music on stringed instruments. His familiarity with Cajun music dates back to his teenage years, when he had the chance to meet Cajun violin legends Dennis McGee and Sady Courville. Guillaume Jabbour studied with Cajun guitar master Sam Broussard. Carl Rufh has long been an essential creative force in the band with his mastery of the bass and double bass and his deep knowledge of roots-Americana styles. Our newest member is Christina Beaudry-Cardenas, who brings joy, enthusiasm, and mastery of the drums. She has contributed greatly to the recording of our albums. In fact, all of these musicians have impressive track records in North American roots music, with their rich musical practices and projects. For my part, I am the band's main composer and lyricist, writing in French often inspired by Louisiana syntax and vocabulary and sometimes by the beautiful sound of Acadian French. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to bring these talented musicians together in a French-language North American roots project that is unique in Quebec.



PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Throughout its existence, Grouyan Gombo has performed a repertoire that is both traditional and contemporary, at numerous clubs and events in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. Notable performances include Place des Arts, Printemps de Bretelles in Montreal, Festival Mémoire et Racines in Joliette, Carrefour Mondial de l'Accordéon in Montmagny (several times), Musée Acadien in Moncton, Fêtes du Quinze Août in Montreal, the Tintamarre Acadien in St. Liguori, Quebec-Acadian region of Lanaudière, Théâtre de la Verdure, Miramichi Folk Festival, Les Folklories de Montréal, Festival de la Chanson de Tadoussac, Festival Traditions du Monde in Sherbrooke, Ottawa Folk Festival, Festival Folk sur le Canal, Maisons de la Culture in Ahuntsic, Plateau Mont-Royal, and Sud-Ouest, Concerts de la Cité in Sherbrooke, Journées Hospitalité in Bathurst, Deep Roots Festival in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, L'Aqpiq Jam in Kuujjuak, Festival du Loup de Lafontaine in Ontario, CRAPO in Lanaudiere, Masqu'Alors Festival in St-Camille, Ottawa Concerts, Violons d'Automne in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Grande Rencontre in Montreal.

