



A fixture in the Bay Area Cajun/Zydeco community since 1995, the Creole Belles will debut their first CD at their Mardi Gras show at the Ashkenaz in Berkeley, California on Saturday, Feb. 2.

The Creole Belles bring the sounds and spirit of Cajun Louisiana to the Bay Area. With fiddle and accordion fronting the band and upright bass, rubboard and guitar providing solid rhythm, they entertain crowds with traditional, down home Cajun and Creole dance music.

After a few fiddle lessons from Bay Area fiddler Suzy Thompson, Belles fiddler Delilah Lee Lewis went to Louisiana to study Cajun fiddle while supporting herself by managing a Crowley, Louisiana nursing home for two and a half years in the early eighties. She lived above the Savoy Music Center in Eunice and spent most of her free time visiting the homes of southwest Louisiana fiddlers including Dennis McGee, Canray Fontenot, Wade Fruge, Michael Doucet and Bebe Carriere.

Delilah returned to California in 1984 where she continued to play Cajun music in various bands and with longtime friend, the great Cajun accordionist Danny Poullard. In 1995, she joined with accordionist Maureen Karpan and established folk musicians Karen Leigh and Karen Celia Heil to bring the traditional sounds of Creole music to Cajun and zydeco fans in the Bay Area. Since the year 2000, Andrew Carriere, the son of renowned fiddler Bebe Carriere, has added his marvelous rubboard rhythms, vocals and accordion to most of the Belles' performances as well as their new CD.

The Belles are the most often hired band for art openings at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Artists Gallery in San Francisco. "Their spirited and spicy blend of acoustic Cajun music and vocals can disarm the most formidable and serious of art audiences. I have had a suspicion that some of our patrons come more to listen to their music than to see our art," wrote Exhibitions Coordinator Steven Pon.

The Belles have performed up and down the West, including

- McCurdy Pavilion, Port Townsend, Washington
- Whistlestop Festival, Toppenish, Washington
- Miner's Foundry Cultural Center, Nevada City, California
- Palms Playhouse, Davis, California
- Crawdad Festival, Isleton, California
- Sweetwater Saloon, San Rafael, California
- La Bouchon, Yountville, California
- Lincoln Theater, Yountville, California
- Down Home Accordion Festival, El Cerrito, California
- Ashkenaz Music and Dance Cultural Center, Berkeley, California
- SFMOMA Artists Gallery, San Francisco, California
- Biscuits and Blues, San Francisco, California
- Adams Avenue Roots Festival, San Diego, California
- Short Grass Music Festival, Cimarron, New Mexico