

Peter Schwarz

Musician CV

(as of November 2025)

Tracy's Family Band

1978 – 1984

- 1978-1984: Homeschooled, traveling, recording and performing professionally with parents, across US, Canada and Europe.
- 1979: ***Dancing Bow and Singing Strings*** (Folkways 6524). Piano.
- 1980: Performance for Ronald and Nancy **Reagan** (Super Senior Sunday, Philadelphia PA)
- 1981, 1982, 1983: Host of **Tracy's Family Folk Festival**, Brodbeck's, PA
- 1981: ***Rode the Mule Around the World*** (Folkways 31083). Parent's Choice Award winner. Bass, Harmonica, Accordion, Drums, Triangle, Vocals.
- 1981: **European Tour**. Performances in 11 countries in 10 weeks
- 1982: International Dance Festival Performances in Ronda, Alicante, and Oviedo, Spain, with the **Green Grass Cloggers**, sponsored by US Embassy
- 1983-1984: **School Assembly Services** Tour (255 public school performances in eight states in the Mid-West)
- 1983: Backup band for Dewey Balfa at **Philadelphia Folk Festival**
- 1985: **Various (The Young Fogies), I Want You So Near** (Heritage Records 056). Bass, Vocals.

Dewey Balfa and Friends

1984 – 1992

- 1984 **National Endowment for the Arts**, Folk Arts Apprentice Fellowship grant. Lived and worked with Balfa at this home in Basile, LA for six weeks.
- 1984: ***Les Quatre Vieux Garçons*** Dewey & Tony Balfa, Tracy & Peter Schwarz (Folkways 2626). Fiddle, Guitar, Bass, Spoons, Accordion, Vocals.
- 1984: ***Louisiana World Exposition*** (World's Fair). Performance. Fiddle, Piano.
- 1985: ***Souvenirs*** (Swallow 6056). Grammy Award Nominee. Fiddle, Piano, Bass.
- 1986: ***Fait a la Main*** (Swallow 6063). Fiddle, Piano.
- 1986-1991. Teaching Assistant at **Augusta Heritage Workshops**, Elkins, WV, facilitating instruction by Dewey Balfa on fiddle, as well as other master artists Lionel Leleux and Canray Fontenot. Taught separate Second Fiddling class as well.
- Other performances: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Festivals Acadiens et Creole, Escoheag Cajun Bluegrass Festival, National Geographic Society, Paine Hall at Harvard University.
- 1992: Producer, **Dewey Balfa Tribute Celebration**, Liberty Theatre, Eunice LA

Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys

1989 – 1999

Special Events

1996 Atlanta Olympics, Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta, GA; **Smithsonian Institution's 150th Birthday Celebration**, The Mall, Washington, DC; **Rounder Records 25th Anniversary Louisiana Red Hot Tour**, Nationwide; **American Festival Japan**, Tokyo, Japan; **Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys 25th Anniversary Concert** (2013), Acadiana Center for the Arts, Lafayette, LA

Concert Venues

Folk Masters, The Barns at Wolf Trap, Vienna, VA; **Barklay Theatre**, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA; **Old Town School of Folk Music**, Chicago, IL; **Jazz Aspen Summer Concerts**, Snowmass Village, CO; **Lincoln Center Out of Doors**, New York, NY; **Calliope Concerts**, Pittsburgh, PA; **North Carolina Museum of Art**, Raleigh, NC; **Accordion Kings**, Miller Outdoor Theatre, Houston, TX; **Central Park SummerStage**, New York, NY; **Strathmore Hall Concert Series**, Rockville, MD, **Galvin Utah Center**, Salt Lake City, UT

Festivals

New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, New Orleans, LA (every year since 1989); **56th National Folk Festival**, Chattanooga, TN; **Tønder Festival**, Tønder, Denmark; **City Stages**, Birmingham, AL; **Cambridge Festival**, Cambridge, England; **Bumbershoot**, The Seattle Arts Festival, Seattle, WA; **Festivals Acadiens**, Girard Park, Lafayette, LA (every year 1989-1998); **Wolf Trap Farm Park Swamp Romp**, Vienna, VA; **Winnipeg Folk Festival**, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; **Merle Watson Memorial Festival**, Wilkesboro, NC; **Celtic Connections**, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, Scotland; **Strawberry Music Festival**, Yosemite, CA; **du Maurier Jazz Festival**, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; **Festival Chorus des Hauts-de-Seine**, Paris, France; **Heimatklänge Festival**, Berlin, Germany; **Moulin Blues**, Ospel, Netherlands; **Bergen Blues & Roots Festival**, Bergen, Norway; **Rhythm & Roots**, Escoheag, RI (Host Band); **Wings and Strings**, Polk City, FL; **Street Scene**, San Diego, CA; **New Orleans by the Bay**, Mountain View, CA; **Wheatland Music Festival**, Remus, MI; **Lowell Folk Festival**, Lowell, MA; **Winterhawk Festival**, Ancramdale, NY

Live Music Venues

House of Blues, New Orleans, LA and W. Hollywood, CA; **Great American Music Hall**, San Francisco, CA; **Bowery Ballroom**, New York, NY; **7th House**, Pontiac, MI; **Mid-City Lanes Rock-n-Bowl**, New Orleans, LA; **Tramp's**, New York, NY; **Twist and Shout**, Bethesda, MD; **Mama Kin**, Boston, MA; **La Zona Rosa**, Austin, TX; **The Birchmere**, Alexandria, VA; **Aladdin Theatre**, Portland, OR; **Variety Playhouse**, Atlanta, GA; **Rongovian Embassy**, Trumansburg, NY; **Skipper's Smokehouse**, Tampa, FL

Dance Venues

Lincoln Center Midsummer Night Swing; **The Barns at Wolf Trap**, Vienna, VA; **Spanish Ballroom**, Glen Echo, MD; **Knights of Columbus Hall**, Atlanta, GA; **TK Club**, Philadelphia, PA; **Eagles Hall**, Alameda, CA; **Concordia Club**, Birmingham, AL; **Grant Street Dance Hall**, Lafayette, LA

Universities

Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI; **Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL; **Kenyon College**, Gambier, OH; **Portland State University**, Portland, OR; **Kent State Folk Festival**, Kent, OH; **Oberlin College**, Oberlin, OH; **Duke University**, Durham, NC

Television, Radio, Film

- **The Apostle**, 1997, A Robert Duvall feature film. Scene appearance and music.
- **Dirty Rice**, 1997, Directed by Pat Mire. Original composition scored to film.
- **A Prairie Home Companion**, hosted by Garrison Keillor, Minnesota Public Radio.
- **PBS Great Performances—Songs of Six Families**
- **A Mountain Stage**, West Virginia Public Radio
- **World Café** and **Afropop Worldwide**, Public Radio International
- **E Town** (from Boulder, CO) and **Weekend All Things Considered**, National Public Radio
- Radio Smithsonian's **An American Roots Fourth of July**: Live Broadcast from grounds of Washington Monument, Washington, DC
- NBC's **Weekend Today Show**

Awards

- 1993 **Grammy Award Finalist** for *Trace of Time*
- 1996 **National Association of Independent Record Distributors**
Awarded Best Cajun/Zydeco for *La Toussaint*
- 1998 **Association for Independent Music**
Indie Award Winner for Best Cajun/Zydeco for *Friday at Last*
- 1995, 1999 **Big Easy Entertainment Awards** (New Orleans, LA), "**Best Cajun Artist**"
- 1995, 1999 **OffBeat Magazine Awards**, "**Best Cajun Album**," *La Toussaint, Bayou Ruler*
- 1995 **Times of Acadiana Music Awards** (Best Band, Accordion, Male Vocal, Bass, Drums)
- 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 **Cajun French Music Association Le Cajun Awards** including Best Accordion Solo, Best Fiddle Solo, Album of the Year, Best New Group and Band of the Year

Discography

- 1998: **Bayou Ruler** (Rounder 6083). Bass, fiddle, vocals.
- 1997: **Friday at Last** (Swallow 6139). Bass, fiddle, vocals.
- 1995: **La Toussaint** (Rounder 6068). Bass, fiddle, vocals.
- 1994: **Live!** (Rounder 6058). Bass, fiddle, vocals.
- 1993: **Trace of Time** (Rounder 6053). Bass, fiddle, vocals.
- 1996: *Louisiana Live from Mountain Stage* (Live Compilation on Blue Plate Music 306)

- 1995: *Planet Accordion* (Compilation Box Set)
- 1995: *Global Gumbo: Modern Roots Music from around the World* (Rhino Compilation R272208)
- 1995: *Alligator Stomp, Vol. 5–Cajun & Zydeco: The Next Generation* (Rhino Compilation)
- 1995: *New Country Magazine* (Music Sampler)

Balfa Toujours

1993 – 2001

- 1993: **Pop, Tu Me Parles Toujours** (Swallow 6110) Fiddle.
- 1995: **A Vieille Terre Haute** (Swallow 6121). Fiddle.
- 1996: **Deux Voyages** (Rounder 6071). Fiddle.
- 1998: **La Pointe** (Rounder 6086). Producer, Bass, Fiddle.
- 2000: **Live at Whiskey River Landing** (Rounder 6096). Producer.

Various live performances: Festivals Acadiens et Creole, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Edmonton Folk Festival, Ottawa Folk Festival, A Mountain Stage, The Ralph Rinzler Memorial Gathering, Festival International de Louisiane, Salamanca ESP

Charles Thibodeaux and the Austin Cajun Aces

2005 – Present

- 2008: **Charles Thibodeaux and the Austin Cajun Aces, *Homage á Andrew Cormier*** (Charles Thibodeaux). Fiddle, Vocals, Producer. Winner of Cajun French Music Association's Le Cajun Award for *Best First Album*.
- 2008: **Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife**, 1 week of performances in DC, representing Texas.
- 2023: **Kerrville Folk Festival's Welcome Home Fest**, Kerrville TX
- 2023: Restarted residency on Monday nights at Austin's **Evangeline Café** (ran from 2004 until Pandemic shutdown in 2020)

Various Performances in Austin and San Antonio, Martinez, Fort Worth, Galveston, Cotulla, Henly, Victoria, Hallettsville, La Feria, Los Fresnos, Sugarland, Columbus, Beaumont, and Medina Lake, Texas.

Jesse Légé and Bosco Stomp

2019 – Present

Various Performances in the greater Austin area and Lafayette LA, such as Sam's Town Point, The White Horse, Sagebrush, ABGB, Austin Crawfish Festival, Bandera Gumbo Cookoff, Texas State Championship Fiddlers Frolic, Austin String Band Festival, La Poussiere Dancehall.

Songwriting

(Published on Vieux Homme Music, BMI)

- **The Corner Post** - First recorded on **Trace of Time** (Rounder 6053). 1993.
- **La Toussaint^t** - First recorded on **La Toussaint** (Rounder 6068). 1995.

“...maybe the best Cajun composition of the 90s, a moving piece written by Schwarz with lyrics by Greely” – musicHound folk: The Essential Album Guide, p. 667

- **Bayou Schwarz** – First recorded on **La Toussaint** (Rounder 6068). 1995.
- **Le Pere de la Nouvelle Marie** – First recorded on **Friday at Last** (Swallow 6139). 1997.
- **Chez Personne**[†] – First recorded on **Bayou Ruler** (Rounder 6083). 1998.

[†] Co-written with David Greely

Various Additional Activities

(Discography / Performances)

- 1992 **Cajun Playboys – Cajun Party!** (Mardi Gras Records 1014) As “Peter Choates” Bass, Fiddle, Vocals, Fiddlesticks.
- 1996: **Dirk Powell, If I Go Ten Thousand Miles** (Rounder 0384). Vocals.
- 1997: **Jo-El Sonnier, Cajun Pride** (Rounder 6069). Bass.
- 1999: **Courtney Granger, Un Bal Chez Balfa** (Rounder 3719). Fiddle.
- 2000: **Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz, Good Songs For Hard Times** (Copper Creek Records 0183). Bass, Fiddle, Tenor Vocals.
- 2000: **Charivari, I Want to Dance With You** (Rounder 6091). Producer.
- 2003: **Mark Viator, Bayou Teche** (Belle Isle Records). Fiddle.
- 2004: **Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz, Draw Closer** (Rounder 0543). Bass, Baritone Vocals.
- 2011: **Larry Lange and his Lonely Knights, Wiggle Room** (Steady Boy Records)
- 2023: **Cameron Fontenot, A Tribute to the Fiddling Greats** (Cameron Fontenot). Fiddle.
- 2025: **Richard White, Miss Right Now** (Richard White). Bass. (Post-Production)

Various Band Performances: Pine Leaf Boys (Bass), Rue La La (Bass), The Brothers Lafitte (Fiddle and Vocals), T’Monde, Chris Miller, Evangeline Aces, The Mamou Mardi Gras Wagon, Ginny Hawker.

2022: Fiddle and Guitar Instructor at Augusta Heritage Workshops, Elkins WV

2023: **Dry Bones: Episode 2 “Grandfather’s Waltz,”** with Steve & Burke Riley, Roots of Fire Productions (Post-production, short-form documentary pre-release screening at 2023 Oxford Film Festival and 2025 Festivals Acadiens)

2024-2025: Various Band Performances with **Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys** in Louisiana, Rhode Island, Texas, Massachusetts and South Carolina.

2024: Artist Mentor for Student Apprentice Grant in Cajun Fiddling (**Texas Folklife Resources**)

2025: Co-Host and Performer, **The Tracy Schwarz Memorial Celebration**, Arthurdale, WV.

2025: Launch of **Cajun Fiddling with Peter Schwarz**, www.peterschwarz.music, in-person and virtual individual fiddle instruction. Enrolled students taking weekly lessons from Denmark, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Lafayette, Austin, and other locations.

2026-2027: Grant Recipient (musician) of Austin Live Music Fund, through City of Austin Arts, Creative, Music and Entertainment department.