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Fiddler Michael Doucet joins poet John Warner Smith for Lafayette show

BY JA'KORI MADISON | Staff writer
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Musician Michael Doucet plays with Fiddlers 4 Sunday at Festival International de Louisiane in Lafayette. The Grammy nominated quartet was the last to play on their stage before thunderstorms cancelled the festival.

Bryan Tuck

Michael Doucet is breaking out his fiddle to join former Louisiana Poet Laureate John Warner Smith in a first-ever collaboration of music and spoken word Thursday in Lafayette at a pop-up event from Performing Arts Serving Acadiana.

"These two artists, one musical and one literary, have created a unique experience where poet and fiddler play off each other's talents," said Jackie Lyle, PASA executive director. "They've spent time carefully selecting tunes and poems that mesh exponentially into a grand experience for everyone who attends the concert."

Doucet received the National Heritage Fellowship award, which is the United State's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. He and his band Beausoleil have made some of the most popular Cajun music over the past 50 years, according to PASA.

Smith began writing poetry while building a successful career as a public administrator and a banker. Smith has published five collections of poetry and a novel, "For All Those Men," which was printed by UL Press in 2022.

Smith was awarded the Linda Hodge Bromberg Poetry Award and in 2019 he was named Poet Laureate of Louisiana. He recently retired from Shadows-on-the-Teche historical museum in New Iberia, where he served as executive director.

The show is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the historic Theater at Baranco Elementary School, 801 Mudd Ave. Tickets are available online. General admission is \$27, VIP tickets are \$43 and Student prices are \$22. Tickets and more information available at pasaonline.org.

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