

Johnny Sonnier



Johnny Sonnier was born Feb 29, 1960 in Lafayette to Ovey and Rose Sonnier of Opelousas. He married Winnie Wilson, they had 4 children.

At age five, Johnny was able to keep a good tempo on his mom's pots and pans. His parents then bought him a makeshift drum set for his ninth birthday. Later, this boost led him to peddle fruit in Opelousas so he could buy a better set of drums for \$100. By age twelve he was playing professionally with Gordon Lalonde's Cajun band. Within a few years Johnny became accomplished on drums, rhythm and steel guitars, as well as on accordion.

From 1979-81 Johnny formed "Johnny Sonnier & the Cajun Fugitives" band. He also played with well-known Cajun greats such as Aldus Roger, Jay Cormier, Johnny Allen, Danny Brasseaux as well as many other local bands.

Johnny is best known for his composition/recordings of "Paul Daigle on Juke Box" and his recreation in a different Cajun style the recording of "Chere Alice". His musical talent has been highly recognized with many awards such as winner of several "Le Cajun Music Awards" top trophies: Best Single, 1989; Best Single, Male Vocalist of Year with "Till a Tear Becomes a Rose", 1990; Best Band of the Year, 1993. Johnny was awarded in other venues: Best Band, Cajun Music Show, 1984; Hottest New Band 1988, Best Cajun Band of Louisiana & Texas, 1993.

Some of his notable recordings include; "Tous Les Dimance Apres Midi", Lanor Records, 1989; "Oh Pour Les Memoirs", Bayou Beat Recordings, 1990; "Till a Tear Becomes a Rose", with Helen Boudreaux, Vidrine Recordings, 1991; "Cajun Music Hits", Lanor Records compilation, 1997.