

La Bottine Souriante



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"The tightest and most exciting band of any nature anywhere..."

FolkRoots, UK

"...One of the best live acts of this universe."

Folk World, Germany

"...Simply the best band I saw all through the summer festival season."

Georgina Boyes, BBC Radio 2

"...One of the most innovative and uplifting bands playing contemporary roots music anywhere."

Tony Montague, The Vancouver Courier

La Bottine Souriante a “reel” booster!

La Bottine Souriante first appeared on the Québec music scene in 1976 and is a living legend of French North American roots music. In over twenty five years, this remarkable group has released twelve albums, four of which are certified Gold (meaning that over 50,000 copies have been sold) and three Platinum (over 100,000 sold). In 2001, they also released a musical anthology to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Altogether, they have sold over half a million albums! The group has won dozens of awards and headlined festivals around the world. La Bottine Souriante is no longer simply a Québécois/Canadian musical phenomenon. The group and their explosive sound have crossed borders the world over and left in their wake countless enchanted audiences. The group has developed a distinctive sound that successfully allies its homage to tradition with a dash of jazz, salsa and pure folk, while at the same time perfectly representing the symbol of vitality and pride of its mother culture. In addition, the music identifies strongly with the current World Music movement.

La Bottine has developed an exceptionally tight, cohesive sound, with their unique flavour of celebratory music. These two elements, music and celebration, characterised by pulsating rhythm, breathtaking sound, and exuberant spirit, have been inseparable. And it is directly into this turbulent energy that La Bottine Souriante sweeps its rapturous public. It is no wonder that the US-based Dirty Linen magazine has proclaimed La Bottine “The best band in the world”!

This musical blend is generated by nine solid, traditionally rooted musicians: **Benoit Bourque** (vocals, button accordion, foot tapping and dance); **Éric Beaudry** (vocals, foot tapping, mandolin, bouzouki, guitar); **David Boulanger** (vocals, fiddle, foot tapping, percussion); and **Pierre “Pedro” Belisle** (piano, piano-accordion, trumpet) taking up the swing with jazzman **François Marion** (acoustic and electric bass). Since 1990, a four-piece brass section has added an even more exciting dimension to La Bottine’s incomparable sound, featuring the musical direction and brass arrangements of **Jean Fréchette** (saxophone, percussions and arrangements), **Robert “Bob” Ellis** (bass trombone), **André Verreault** (trombone), **Jocelyn Lapointe** (trumpet) and **Sandy Silva** (percussive dance).

La Bottine Souriante has taken part in numerous folk festivals around the world, among them the **TØNDER FESTIVAL** and the prestigious **WOMAD**. The group has appeared on many compilations, notably with **Kepa Junkera** (Bilbao 00:00h) from the Basque country as well as with Irish **Paddy Molony and The Chieftains** (*Fire in the Kitchen*).

• **La Bottine Souriante** means smiling boot, a reference to the worn-out soles of a working man’s footwear. They’ll wear out your soles pretty quickly as well.

DISCOGRAPHY

J'AI JAMAIS TANT RI (2003) 67527 02043 2 0



J'ai jamais tant ri really lives up to its name, offering hyperactive rhythms on a foundation of contagious humour, creating the perfect party mood that will make you giddy! And since the group is taking a new direction, we would like to applaud their innovative desire, obvious in all their instruments... Add to this a number of voices blending together with exciting arrangements and you have a full-bodied **album full of personality!**

ANTHOLOGIE (2001) 67527 02041 2 2 (CERTIFIED GOLD)



This **musical anthology** underlines the **25-year career** of **La Bottine Souriante**. Each title was carefully selected from some 121 musical pieces recorded by the group since the beginning of its career in 1976, all re-mastered. It also includes three brand-new versions of previous successes recorded in February 2001. This album brings together songs having special significance to the band's history; that is to say, songs which best illustrate certain decisive moments which have been responsible for **LBS's** musical direction. Throughout this short journey, we invite you to discover (or rediscover) the different ensembles and musical influences which have marked the band's growth and development.

CORDIAL (2001) 67527 02042 2 1



"**Cordial**" is **LBS'** long awaited **11th album** in a career spanning 25 years. It is a powerful concoction of **LBS'** instrumental prowess and lively vocal harmonies. They are true masters of their craft, creating an ovenproof blend of traditional and contemporary flavours. Led by the charismatic singer, accordionist and harmonica player Yves Lambert, this nine-piece freight train boasts fiddles, accordion, piano, flutes, whistles, tap shoes and an airtight horn section.

ROCK AND REELS (1998) 67527 02040 2 3 (CERTIFIED GOLD)



The **Xième** (10th) album is an explosion of sounds and rich flavours based on the original version of songs of Québec heritage. This album is coloured by different musical influences resulting in a truly new sound. The teaming up, while on tour, with the Basque accordionist **Kepa Junkera** and the Finnish violinist **Arto Järvelä**, have marked such pieces as Arin Québec and Alice au pays d'Arto. Already famous for its musical "criss-crossing", La Bottine Souriante has surpassed all expectations with this album entitled Rock & Reel out of Canada.

EN SPECTACLE (1996) 67527 02039 2 7 (CERTIFIED GOLD)



La Bottine Souriante's 9th album, is a celebration of the group's **twenty years of work in traditional Québécois music**. Recorded live at Clouzo Saxo in Saint-Sauveur, the album is a tip of the hat to the loyal public who has offered unwavering support during the group's 20 years of existence. It is an audio "cocktail" of explosive sounds that gives us the vigour of the band in concert. This album gathers a variety of songs and instrumentals from **La Bottine Souriante's** vast repertoire. Sparkling reels, spicy airs, and crisp lyrics, harvested from the group's recorded heritage are served up with fresh arrangements in the trademark style of La Bottine brass – Mr. **Jean Fréchette**. Three new pieces round out the album's 20-year retrospective: **À travers la vitre, Galope et Quadrille** and a naughty little song entitled **Bidouidou**.

LA MISTRINE (1994) 67527 02038 2 8 (CERTIFIED PLATINUM)



La Mistrine evokes the Middle Ages with its mystery lore, sorcery and devilish rhythms. It bewitches us with its musical risk-taking where jazz, Latino and even African beats are all infused into one while at the same time the overall flavour maintains its traditional roots. This album is evidence of the group's musical maturity. It is daring and original, establishing La Bottine Souriante on the **World Music** scene. Pushing ever harder toward new sounds and

textures, the brass section defies us to keep our feet still. **Le Rap à Ti-Pétang** and **Le Reel des Soucoupes Volantes** are among the many notable cuts.

JUSQU'AUX P'TITES HEURES(1992) 67527 02037 2 9 (CERTIFIED PLATINUM)



With this release, the group from Joliette flies off to new destinations. It is a love story about the chemistry between the members of La Bottine and a brass section. While the concept originated as part of a live show, it became a "keeper" when it unexpectedly turned into a hit and a whole lot of fun. It is in the midst of this ambience and spirit that the album was created, giving witness to a very-much-alive tradition. With tremendous energy, the group's new formation created a link between different musical influences and styles, pushing the envelope even further while respecting its traditional sources, always **solidly rhythmic**. The characteristic La Bottine sound of today had arrived – **a fizzling, cultural fusion between traditional Québécois, salsa and jazz**.

J'VOUDRAIS CHANGER D'CHAPEAU (1988) 67527 02036 2 0



This album marks a change for **La Bottine Souriante** as it begins to travel new paths. From music that has its roots in traditional dance, La Bottine ventures into a world where music is for listening. With the arrival of new members – jazzman **Denis Fréchette**, bassman **Régent Archambault** and multi-talented musician/singer **Michel Bordeleau** – subtleties uncommon to traditional music become part of the group's developing sound. It is a refined album with bold jazz-influenced arrangements.

TOUT COMME AU JOUR DE L'AN (1987) 67527 02035 2 1 (CERTIFIED PLATINUM)



Produced live during a party with a bunch of friends, this album perfectly recreates the ambience of a typical "veillée" resounding with reels, call-and-response songs and mischievous good humour. While the first half gathers together favourite **holiday songs**, the **second features lively instrumentals**.

LA TRAVERSÉE DE L'ATLANTIQUE (1986) 67527 02034 2 2



To mark its 10th anniversary, **La Bottine Souriante's** fourth album pays homage to the musical roots of diverse regions of Québec and France with a bevy of reels, waltzes, jigs and call-and-response songs. The album has much in common with Chic'n Swell with regard to the meticulous research and exceptional arrangements heard here. Once again, the group moves forward toward new frontiers with maturing style, vocals, harmonies and dual-guitar arrangements. **La Traversée de l'Atlantique** creates a bridge between **Québec** and **Europe**, or more precisely, between Quebec traditional heritage, **French traditional songs** and **Irish, Scottish** and **British** music.

CHIC & SWELL (1983) 67527 02033 2 3



As André Marchand put it, "this album takes the group out of the cabin and ushers them into the parlor." This album is under **Celtic influences**. High-quality production, a bit more polish on the arrangements, some reach to the vocals (a cappella for **Ziguezon**) and the addition of the flute, all put a professional edge on the group's second release.

Y'A BEN DU CHANGEMENT (1978) 67527 02065 2 6 (CERTIFIED GOLD)



This album gathers a vast repertoire of traditional songs collected primarily from the Cantin family, with instrumentals originating from the cultural heritage of Québec's Lanaudière region. Y'a ben du changement beautifully preserves the simplicity, vitality and spirit of the group's live performances and was an instant success. Today, its timeless repertoire (**En l'an 2033**, **Sur la gran'côte** and **Trinque l'amourette**) can still be heard in La Bottine's concerts. When this album came out, the band was comprised only of **Gilles Cantin** (guitar, foot tapping, vocals), **Mario Forest** (harmonica, vocals),

Yves Lambert (accordion, harmonica, vocals), **Pierre Laporte** (fiddle) and **André Marchand** (guitar, vocals).

AWARDS

2004

- **FÉLIX** *Best Traditional Album* for ***J'ai jamais tant ri*** – ADISQ (Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo)
- Nominated for the *Best Roots & Traditional Album - Group* / **JUNO** (Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences)
- In nomination for the **FÉLIX *Show of the year*** – ADISQ

2002

- **JUNO** (The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences) *Best Roots / Traditional Album* for ***Cordial***
- Nominated for the public award at the **BBC AWARD** in the category *Americas*
- **FÉLIX** *Best Traditional Album* for ***Cordial*** – ADISQ (Association québécoise de l'industrie du disque, du spectacle et de la vidéo)

2001

- In nomination for the **FÉLIX *Show of the year*** – ADISQ

2000

- Winner of the **BBC Folk Award** for the *Best Live Act* in 1999, in UK
- Winner of **Prix de la Tournée - RIDEAU** (Réseau indépendant des diffuseurs d'événements artistiques unis)
- Nominated for the *Best Roots & Traditional Album - Group* / **JUNO** (Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences)

1999

- Winner of the **FÉLIX** *Best Folk Album* of the year for ***Xième*** – ADISQ

1998

- **FÉLIX** nomination in the category *Most reknown artist outside of Québec* – ADISQ
- **Disque d'Or** (Gold Record) for the album ***Fire in the kitchen***

1997

- **FÉLIX** *Folk Album of the Year* for ***En Spectacle*** – ADISQ
- **JUNO** nomination (The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences), *Best Roots / Traditional Album* for ***En Spectacle***
- **Disque Platine** (Platinum Record) for the album ***La Mistrine*** and **Disque d'Or** (Gold Record) for the album ***En spectacle***

1996

- **FÉLIX** *Concert Performance of the year - interpreter* – ADISQ

1995

- **FÉLIX** *Folk Album of the Year* for ***La Mistrine***
- Two **FÉLIX** nominations for *Group of the Year* and *Arranger of the Year* for ***La Mistrine***
- **JUNO** nomination (The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences), *Best Roots / Traditional Album* for ***La Mistrine***
- **Maximilien-Boucher Prize** during the 50th anniversary of the Gala des Grands Prix Régionaux de la Société nationale des Québécois de Lanaudière
- **Excelsior Prize** for *Personality of the Year*

1994

- **Miroir de la chanson francophone** special jury prize
- **Prix Desjardins de la Culture, Artist of the Year**
- Two **FÉLIX** nominations for *Concert Performance of the Year* and *Group of the Year*

- Three **Disque d'Or** (Gold Records) for the albums ***Tout Comme au Jour de l'An***, ***Jusqu'aux P'tites Heures***, and ***La Mistrine***

1993

- **FÉLIX** for *Best Sound (Technical) of the Year*, plus two nominations for *Group of the Year* and *Concert Performance of the Year*

1992

- **FÉLIX** *Folk Album of the Year* for ***Jusqu'aux P'tites Heures***
- **JUNO** *Best Roots / Traditional Album* for ***Jusqu'aux P'tites Heures***

1989

- **JUNO** *Best Roots / Traditional Album* for ***Je Voudrais Changer d'Chapeau***