

RAMSEY & VAAN

Transatlantic combo from New Orleans.

Bart Ramsey on piano, guitar and vocals. Neti Vaan on fiddle and vocals.

Bart Ramsey's powerful lyrics and melodies, and Neti Vaan's passionate fiddle playing combine in a repertoire that flows easily from folk-jazz to country-blues to roots-rock. World Music seen through a Louisiana lens, with outstanding original songs, plus border-hopping fiddle tunes and songs in traditional styles, including cajun, mexican, texican, and swing.

"Ramsey's artistic signature defies conventionality. While others often lead you through landmines of life's dark side, Ramsey's similar portrayals become so intriguing, you have to wonder what makes this songsmith tick... The arrangements, featuring Ramsey's maestro piano playing and Neti Vaan's haunting soulful fiddling, are highly melodic, packed with exquisite playing."

-- Offbeat, New Orleans, LA

"Ils forment à eux deux une extraordinaire association aux vertus stimulants, qui rassemble diverses traditions musicales venues du monde entier et véhicule une énergie, un enthousiasme et une grande intelligence musicale."

-- Le Télégramme, France

Since they started working together in 1994, Bart Ramsey and Neti Vaan have divided their time between home in Louisiana, and touring in Europe for two or three months every summer. They have worked primarily in Britain, France, and more recently Italy. Ramsey & Vaan have recorded several albums while in New Orleans, collaborating with many fine local musicians such as Rob Halverson (Robinson Ear Machine), Charlie Miller (Dr. John), Anders Osborne, Tim Paco, and Johnny Vidacovitch (Astral Project).

DISCOGRAPHY:

IN SEARCH OF A CHEAP HOTEL - Released December, 2001.

LITTLE RED WAGON - Released in 1999.

ZING ZANG - with guitarist Rob Halverson. 1996.

PRINCE OF SANITY - Bart Ramsey solo project, 1997.

Bart Ramsey's song "Don't Rain on my Mardi Gras," from the CD "In Search of a Cheap Hotel," was included in a Red Hot Records of Louisiana compilation of Mardi Gras music released in 2003. Bart and Neti are currently working on two new CDs, one of songs and one of instrumentals.

BOOKINGS: neti@ramseyvaan.com, +1-504-895-8678

RAMSEY & VAAN: BIO

Originally from Chicago, singer/songwriter and piano player **BART RAMSEY** has lived in New Orleans for half his life, give or take a few years in West Africa, Central America, and Europe. His first professional gig was in Bamenda, Cameroon, when he became the regular organist for the traveling Nigerian band "Jerry Cooper and the Jark Brothers." Once the band dissolved, he moved to New Orleans to write a couple of novels and soak up the music of his adopted hometown. Bart is a prolific songwriter with twisted tales to tell and an off-beat sense of humor. He writes in styles ranging from smooth New Orleans swing, including the quirky love song "The Lady I Hated to Lose"; to New Orleans Mambo, as in "Don't Rain on My Mardi Gras"; to country blues, as in the abduction-by-aliens shuffle "I Thought It Was God But It Was Only a UFO." His lyrics have been described as "vivid, evocative mini-epics." He also writes cross-cultural instrumentals that sound like classics, especially since he started carrying the accordion with him everywhere. It also serves as a bullet proof vest. Bart's singing voice has been described as "whiskey-soaked," although he prefers red wine. Besides piano, he also performs on guitar and accordion, and records with a variety of other instruments, including harmonica, jaw harp, glockenspiel, percussion and toy piano. He has done session work for many local recording artists, including Mike West, Jonno Frishberg, and Denise Marie. He also performs and records with Austin producer and performing artist Rob Halverson, with whom he has recently co-written a record. His gypsy jazz quartet, "Java Swing," performs regularly in New Orleans, usually at Dos Jefes Uptown Cigar Bar.

Fiddler **NETI VAAN** is fascinated by the varied fiddle traditions she has encountered on her musical journey. She started her travels at an early age, when her family moved from the Netherlands to Texas by way of five years in Uganda and Kenya, always bringing along her father's violin. Eventually, when her hands were big enough, Neti got started on that same violin. In Texas she discovered the local western-swing, tex-mex and bluegrass styles. After many years of honing her skills as a street musician on sidewalks from New Orleans to San Francisco, living in a converted Dodge van as a modern-day nomad, Neti moved to London in 1987. She was a founding member of the folk-roots bands "Companions of the Rosy Hours," "Bill Caddick's Urban Legend" and "Zumzeaux." For six years she toured throughout the UK full-time, appearing at art centers, folk clubs, village halls and festivals, as well as on BBC radio and TV (including fiddler Aly Bain's "Shetland Sessions"). Neti's sojourn in the UK lasted long enough for her to soak up Celtic influences readily on tap at pubs and festivals. In her work with Bart, she adapts easily to the wide range of styles in his compositions, and draws on her extensive repertoire of traditional and original fiddle tunes. Besides spot-on harmonies, her vocal contributions include Cajun and Spanish songs. Neti has made guest appearances on CDs by artists such as Andy Cronshaw, Patrice Fisher, Jonno Frishberg, Rob Halverson, Jeremy Lyons, Denise Marie, the Maybelles, Rory McLeod, Myshkin and Michelle Shocked. In New Orleans she is a member of the popular and award-winning swing/trad-jazz band "New Orleans Jazz Vipers." Her interest in twin fiddling and traditional fiddle styles has led to the formation of the band "Toonzville Twin Fiddles" with Bart Ramsey and contra-dance fiddler Daron Douglas, and the recording of a CD "Toonzville".

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RAMSEY & VAAN have appeared at the following venues and festivals, among others...

USA:

French Quarter Festival (2003)

Freret Festival (2003, 2004)

M's Fine & Mellow, Baton Rouge

Piney Woods Oprey, Abita Springs

"The Louisiana Jukebox", Cox Cable TV show

New Orleans clubs: The Maple Leaf, Le Bon Ton Roulé, The Spotted Cat,

The Kerry Pub, Carrollton Station, Neutral Ground, Dragon's Den, Crown & Anchor.

Bogalusa Festival in the Park, Mississippi

South by Southwest, Austin, Texas

Several appearances on The All You Can Eat Texas Music Café, Waco, Texas (TV show)

EUROPE:

Festival Strade Blu, Modigliana, Italy (2004)

Festival Jazz sur la Digue, Malestroit, Brittany, France (2004)

Festival Les Pretenraines, St. Gravé, Brittany, France (2004)

Fêtes des Battages, St. Nicolas du Tertre, Brittany, France (2004)

Festival de Jazz à Vannes, Brittany, France (2003)

Les Loustiks de l' Akoustic Festival, Rochefort en Terre, Brittany, France (1998 - 2004)

Les Jeudis de St. Avé, Brittany, France (2003)

Concert sponsored by the Tourist Office in Muzillac, Brittany, France (2003)

Concert sponsored by the Tourist Office in Pleneuf Val André, Brittany, France (2003)

Concert sponsored by the Tourist Office in Concarneau, Brittany, France (2001)

Les Vendredis du Canal, Malestroit, Brittany, France (1999, 2001, 2002)

Les Rendez-Vous De L'Erdre Festival, Nantes, France (1999)

Marlborough Jazz Festival, Marlborough, UK (1997 - 2003)

Jackfield festival, Telford, UK (2001, 2003)

Festival of Alternative Energy, Newnham, UK (2003)

The Sheep Music Festival, Presteigne, Wales, UK (2003)

Festival at the Edge, Shropshire, UK (2002)

The Village Voice Touring Scheme, N. Devon, UK ('99, 2001, 2002, 2004)

Festival of Many Cultures, North Yorkshire, UK (a week-long series of concerts, 2001)

Sandwich Festival, Sandwich, Kent, UK (2001)

Severn Revels Festival, Gloucestershire, UK (1997, 2000)

Broadstairs folk Festival, Broadstairs, UK (1999)

St. Ives September Festival, Cornwall, UK (1999)

Lincolnshire Rural Arts, UK (a week-long series of concerts, 1997 & 1999)

Shetland Arts Trust Tour, Shetland Islands, UK (a series of concerts and school workshops, '99)

Tours in Belgium and Holland (2001)

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