

# The Best of the Beat

OffBeat's annual awards extravaganza celebrated Wardell Quezergue, Trombone Shorty, and the Best in Louisiana music.

For the second year in a row, you love Trombone Shorty.

At the Best of the Beat January 12, we again presented the Performer of the Year Award to Troy Andrews, who also won the award for Best R&B/Funk Band along with Orleans Avenue. This year, our readers also voted Galactic's excellent hip-hop experiment *From the Corner to the Block* as the Album of the Year.

We gave the awards at the House of Blues as part of our yearly extravaganza, which this year included great sets by James Singleton, the Thelonious Monk Institute Jazz Ensemble, Amanda Shaw, Roddie Romero and the Hub City All-Stars, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, the Zydepunks, Davell Crawford, Big Blue Marble, Clint Maedgen and the Special Men's tribute to Ernie K-Doe, the Valparaiso Men's Chorus, Cyril Neville and Wardell Quezergue's New Orleans R&B Revue.

Quezergue was the man of the hour, receiving *OffBeat's* Lifetime Achievement in Music, then performing a set of his classics with vocalists Tony Owens, Jean "Mr. Big Stuff" Knight, Shannon McNally and Dorothy Moore. McNally's haunting "Sea of Love" and Moore's beautiful, show-stopping "Misty Blue" were two of the night's highlights, but there were so many. Bassist Singleton accompanied himself on trumpet. The Soul Rebels killed. Maedgen's version of K-Doe's "Reap What You Sew" was heartbreaking. Cyril started Mardi Gras early with a set of Indian music and brought the Wild Tchoupitoulas onstage. The Valparaiso Men's Chorus was a brilliantly woozy spectacle as 20 or so men struggled to fit on the Parish stage and drunkenly sing sea shanties.



Dorothy Moore and Wardell Quezergue

We thank everybody who helped make the Best of the Beat happen: Harrah's Casino—who hosted our Wednesday night Business and Individual Achievement Awards—the House of Blues, and the rest of our sponsors—Miller Lite, Capital One Bank, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation, WWL-TV, and Renew Our Music and the Ponderosa Stomp Foundation for the Quezergue tribute. We also appreciate the restaurants that contributed food for Saturday night: Cochon, Galatoire's, Jacques-Imo's, Mat & Naddie's, the Gumbo Shop, La Cote Brasserie, the Praline Connection, Slice Pizzeria, Juan's Flying Burrito, Nirvana, Hookah Café, EAT New Orleans, Whole Foods Market, Le Citron Bistro, Hubig's Pies, Dickie Brennan's Palace Café, the Flaming Torch, Martinique Bistro, Tomatillo's, and Café Reconcile. Most of all, we thank Louisiana musicians for giving us so much great music, and we thank our readers for coming out to celebrate that music with us. We're already thinking

about next year; we hope you are, too.

#### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC

Wardell Quezergue

#### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC BUSINESS

Roy Shaw

#### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN MUSIC EDUCATION

Wilbert Rawlins, Jr.

#### THE HEARTBEAT AWARD

Cynthia Simien

#### BEST BLUES BAND OR PERFORMER

Mem Shannon & the Membership

#### BEST BLUES ALBUM

Andy J. Forest: *Real Stories of Love, Labor and Other Man-Made Catastrophes* (Independent)

#### BEST R&B/FUNK BAND OR PERFORMER

Troy Andrews & Orleans Ave.

#### BEST R&B/FUNK ALBUM

Various Artists: *Goin' Home: A Tribute to Fats Domino* (Vanguard)

#### BEST ROCK BAND OR PERFORMER

Morning 40 Federation

#### BEST ROCK ALBUM

Quintron and Miss Pussycat: *Jamskate* (Rhinstone)

#### BEST RAP/HIP-HOP BAND OR PERFORMER

Truth Universal

#### BEST TRADITIONAL JAZZ BAND OR PERFORMER

Preservation Hall Jazz Band

#### BEST TRADITIONAL JAZZ ALBUM

Tom McDermott: *Live in Paris* (STR)

#### BEST CONTEMPORARY JAZZ BAND OR PERFORMER

Christian Scott

#### BEST CONTEMPORARY JAZZ ALBUM

Christian Scott: *Anthem* (Concord Jazz)



**Art Neville and Ben Jaffe**



**Clint Maedgen**



**Davell Crawford**



**Jan Ramsey and Roy Shaw**

Photos on far left, middle and bottom by Erika Goldring. Photo far right by East Perry.

**BEST BRASS BAND**  
Rebirth Brass Band

**BEST GOSPEL BAND OR PERFORMER**  
Franklin Avenue Baptist Church Mass Choir

**BEST CAJUN BAND OR PERFORMER**  
BeauSoleil

**BEST CAJUN ALBUM**  
Various Artists: *Allons Boire un Coup: A Collection of Cajun and Creole Drinking Songs* (Valcour)

**BEST ZYDECO BAND OR PERFORMER**  
Chris Ardoin and NuStep

**BEST ZYDECO ALBUM**  
Curley Taylor and Zydeco *Trouble: Nothin' Feels Like This* (Louisiana Soul)

**BEST COUNTRY/FOLK/ROOTS ROCK BAND OR PERFORMER**  
Susan Cowsill

**BEST COUNTRY/FOLK/ROOTS ROCK ALBUM**  
Johnny Sansone: *Poor Man's Paradise* (Shortstack)

**BEST WORLD MUSIC BAND OR PERFORMER**  
Vivaz

**BEST EMERGING ARTIST**  
The Eames Era

**BEST COVER BAND**  
The Top Cats

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**  
*Galactic: From the Corner to the Block* (Anti-)

**BAND OR PERFORMER OF THE YEAR**  
Troy Andrews

**BEST FEMALE VOCALIST**  
Susan Cowsill

**BEST MALE VOCALIST**  
John Boutte

**BEST BASS PLAYER**  
James Singleton

**BEST GUITAR PLAYER**  
Sonny Landreth

**BEST DRUMMER/PERCUSSIONIST**  
Shannon Powell

**BEST SAXOPHONE PLAYER**  
Tony Dagradi

**BEST CLARINET PLAYER**  
Dr. Michael White

**BEST TRUMPET PLAYER**  
Irvin Mayfield

**BEST TROMBONE PLAYER**  
Craig Klein

**BEST TUBA/SOUSAPHONE PLAYER (TIE)**  
Philip Frazier  
Kirk Joseph  
Matt Perrine

**BEST PIANIST/KEYBOARD PLAYER**  
Tom McDermott

**BEST HARMONICA PLAYER**  
Ben Ellman

**BEST ACCORDION PLAYER**  
Terrance Simien

**BEST PLAYER OF ANOTHER INSTRUMENT**  
Theresa Andersson (violin)

**BEST CLUB**  
Tipitina's

**BEST RADIO STATION**  
WWOZ

**BEST RADIO PERSONALITY**  
Bob French

**BEST FESTIVAL**  
New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

**BEST FESTIVAL OUTSIDE NEW ORLEANS**  
Festival International de Louisiane

**RECORDING STUDIO OF THE YEAR**  
Piety Street Recording

**LABEL OF THE YEAR**  
Valcour Records

**PRODUCER OF THE YEAR**  
Anders Osborne

**BEST RECORD STORE**  
Louisiana Music Factory

**BEST INSTRUMENT STORE**  
New Orleans Music Exchange

**BEST PRO-AUDIO STORE**  
Guitar Center

**BEST STUDIO SOUND ENGINEER**  
Tim Stambaugh

**BEST BOOKING AGENCY**  
White Oak Productions

**BEST MANAGER**  
Kimball Packard

**BEST MUSIC ATTORNEY**  
Edgar "Dino" Gankendorff

**BEST MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Erika Goldring

**BEST CLUB OWNER OR MANAGER**  
Wesley Schmidt and Jason Patterson of Snug Harbor

**BEST CONCERT PROMOTER**  
New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation

**MUSIC AWARENESS AWARD**  
Louisiana Crossroads

**MUSIC BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**  
Rehage Entertainment