

MUSIC

Louisiana music vet, Egan, mainly known for songwriting

BY JOHN WIRT
Music critic

Grammy winners and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees record the music of Lafayette songwriter David Egan. His list of cuts, as they say in the business, includes Etta James, Percy Sledge, Mavis Staples, Solomon Burke, the Fabulous Thunderbirds, Joe Cocker, John Mayall, Marcia Ball and New Orleans favorites Irma Thomas and Johnny Adams.

Egan joins three other noted Louisiana songwriters — Houma blues man Tab Benoit, the Shreveport-based Maggie Warwick and Baton Rouge singer-songwriter Benjy Davis — next week for a Louisiana songwriters night at the Manship Theatre.

"I've done them in all shapes," Egan said of his previous songwriters night performances. "You're not carrying the whole thing, but when you're on, you're on. And no way can you run out of songs."

Egan's also looking forward to the Aug. 12 release of Irma Thomas' new album, *Simply Grand*. Thomas performs his song, "Underground Stream," in a recording that features Egan at the piano. Her previous album, the Grammy-winning *After The Rain*, features three Egan songs.

Egan recently released his second CD, *You Don't Know Your Mind*, a follow-up to his 2004 solo debut, *Twenty Years of Trouble*.

"The first record was kind of a patch job," he confessed from Lafayette. "But it was a worthwhile patch job. I took cuts that I had done over the past 20 years and just put them all together into a collection."

While many of the record-

Louisiana Songwriters Show with David Egan, Tab Benoit, Maggie Warwick and Benjy Davis

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 7 (7:30 p.m.)

WHERE: Manship Theatre at the Shaw Center for the Arts (100 Lafayette St.)

ADMISSION: \$25

ings on *Twenty Years of Trouble* were demos, the new *You Don't Know Your Mind* was produced in Lafayette and Nashville with a gang of gifted Louisiana musicians.

"It's a Louisiana deal," Egan said. "The proof is in the grooves. It's a privilege to be able to make records and play music for a living. It's a blessing, but it's also work. It's a whip."

Egan's a Louisiana music veteran. His credits include the Cajun band, Filé; the cross-generational, all-star roots-rock collective from Lafayette, Lil' Band O' Gold; the Shreveport-based A-Train; and Cajun performers Hadley J. Castille and Jo-El Sonnier.

Among recent additions to Egan's resumé is a recording with Lil' Band O' Gold and Robert Plant of the Fats Domino song, "It Keeps Rainin'," featured on last year's star-filled Domino tribute album.

Domino showed up at New Orleans' Piety Street Recording to meet Plant and later hung out at music venue Tipitina's during Lil' Band O' Gold's sound check for an evening show.

"The club was closed but they weren't gonna keep Fats out," Egan recalled. "Of course, we set up and immediately



Photo by TERRI FENSEL

David Egan

started hitting these Fats Domino grooves. Fats came around to the side of the stage. We couldn't get him on the stage or to the piano. But he stayed there on the side of the stage singing and cutting up and making up funny, sweet words like, 'I'd like to thank you young fellows for making this old boy feel so good.'

"We couldn't get enough of it, so we just hit one Fats song after another."

And that night at Tip's, Plant made a guest appearance with Lil' Band O' Gold.

Following the Domino-music immersion that Egan and Lil' Band O' Gold began in January 2007 when then were the house band for *Offbeat* magazine's Domino-dominated *Best of the Beat* awards, Egan wrote the Domino-inspired "You're Lyin' Again."

"You play all those Fats songs so much and they just get in your bones," he said. "I recommend every musician immerse themselves in Fats Domino for a couple of months."

The songs aren't rocket science, by any means, but we're happier people for having done that. It adds a pep in your step

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Fun Band Directory dates set

Your fans are waiting, so hurry up and send us your information for the *Fun* section's annual Band Directory, which will be published on Sept. 19.

The deadline to submit material for this year's directory is Monday, Sept. 5.

It's so easy to sign up online at <http://www.2theadvocate.com/bands>, or fill out the Band Directory form that's printed on page 15 of this issue of *Fun*.

Our annual directory features photos and information concerning local bands, including personnel, types of music played and contact information. Need a little free publicity for your band? Send us your information now. Sign up online at <http://www.2theadvocate.com/bands> or mail it to *Fun*, P.O. Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA, 70821 or fax it to (225) 388-0351.

SHOWS TO WATCH

ROCK

Aug. 1

Reverend Rob: Phil Brady's The Vettes/Meriwether: Clicks

Brandon Bennett: Studio 7 at Casino Rouge

Frontiers — A Tribute to Journey: Varsity Theatre
Cohen/Pax Romana/Con-

CoCtion: North Gate Tavern
Glam-O-Rama with DJ Bird: Red Star

Aug. 2

Vanessa Hudgens/The Solar Heat: Blue Bayou/Dixie Landin'

Baak Gwai and Justin Bailey: Spanish Moon
'80s tribute night: North Gate Tavern

Aug. 6

Ariel Pink/Chairlift: Spanish Moon
One Wants: The Caterie

Aug. 7

The Hold Steady: Chelsea's Café
5 Years and Counting/Kessler: North Gate Tavern

V-Tones: Varsity Theatre

BLUES/RHYTHM AND BLUES

Aug. 1

One Mo Time featuring Floyd Patterson: The M Bar
Rudy Richard Blues and Zydeco Band: Teddy's Juke Joint (Zachary)

Michael Foster Project: Lyceum Dean (7 p.m.)
N-2N: Corky's

Aug. 2

Wendell Woods: The M Bar
N-2N: Dalton's
Selwyn Cooper and the Hurricanes: Teddy's Juke Joint (Zachary)
C.J. Solar: Baton Rouge River

Center (11:30 a.m.)

Aug. 3

Larry Garner: Teddy's Juke Joint (Zachary)

Aug. 4

2GA1: DJ's Club Elite

Aug. 6

Voodoo blues open mike: Teddy's Juke Joint (Zachary)