



with Django Reinhardt and Clifton Chenier riffing in the background.” -Alfred Hickling, *The Guardian*.

“Truly one of those nights.” - Jeremy Searle, *Maverick*

“A rich sound with Seznec pulling vintage, deeply characterful tones from guitar and a fretless-sounding gourd-banjo, and Ward-Bergeman adding longing counterpoint as Clifford applies a hammer to a yew log or plays with brushes (as in paint, rather than the standard drummer's issue)...An arresting blend of sophistication, foot-stompin' bonhomie and furious harmonica storms...” -Rob Adams, *The Herald*

“Utterly Enthralling. This is music that goes deep into the roots of popular music. Mixed in here is West African Griot songs, Deep South blues, Nashville harmonies, Eastern European gypsy dances, even a touch of English Morris Dancing...Dig underneath the fingernail of modern popular music and you get to the quick. There – in the raw, living, tissue – is where you'll find the Groanbox Boys. It's not a show. It's life.” -Ben Chu, *The Independent*

Groanbox, the North American trio of **Paul Clifford**, **Cory Seznec**, and **Michael Ward-Bergeman**, are a musical hybrid of ideas and ideals. At first glance a roots band steeped in the traditions of American music, they play with all the guts of rock and roll and all the soul of the wandering troubadour. But somewhere along the way, that troubadour turned off the road and, setting sail from the melting pot of New Orleans, began a journey that would take their sound to new, uncharted territories with influences from around the world.

Groanbox have toured extensively throughout the UK and the east coast of the USA. They have released five albums: *Smokestack Trilogy* (2006), *Fences Come Down* (2007), *Gran Bwa* (2008), *Livingston Sessions* (2010) and most recently *Guts, Lungs & Bones* (2011).

The band wrote, rehearsed, and recorded all of the material for *Guts, Lungs & Bones* in a cottage perched at the bottom of a green, sheep-flecked and brook-bordered hill in the Scottish Lowlands over a period of ten days in August 2011.

Recorded live with producer/engineer **Oscar Cainer** at the helm, the album features ten original compositions and one traditional number.

Press:

“The trio's brand of Americana has less to do with the traditional backwoods fare than with the mongrelisation of several musical strands into something that can only be described as shamanic. You get the feeling that a large amount of this material was born out of extended sessions round a fire in the dead of night. It's spooky but also often hilarious. If there are immediate comparisons to be made it's with the transposed delta blues of Captain Beefheart or junkyard grind of Tom Waits. It's dirty, unwashed and tremendous fun.”

-Chris Jones, *Songlines*

“A pair of LSE/Johns Hopkins and Berklee graduates plus an academically trained percussionist cast as a trio of shamanistic gypsies singing the ethno-musicological blues might seem a stretch. But the proof is in the grooves and they're dub-deep thanks to Michael Ward-Bergeman's accordion, tweaked to Augustus Pablo/King Tubby-strength melodica melancholy and seismic boom. Within this frame, the three scrape, strum, rattle and hum their sundry calabashes, zob sticks and the rest of the global busker's arsenal. -Mat Snow, *Mojo*

“An extraordinary mix of European and American folk styles - like Uncle Dave Macon dancing on the tables in a Parisian cafe

About the Musicians:

Paul Clifford (vocals, percussion) is a skilled west coast Canadian drummer and multi-instrumentalist with a gift for improvisation. Paul has played professionally in jazz, folk, blues, country, rock and latin bands; worked as a percussionist, composer and actor and travelled widely to keep his music fresh. Though formally beginning percussion studies in Malsapina Jazz College [Vancouver Island], he continued with Bata Folkloric in Havana, Cuba, and frequent pilgrimages to New Orleans soaking up the second-line, with added study at the Banff centre for the Arts, participating in *Afrocubanismo* 1997.

Paul's new creative home is Muskie Studios in Kent UK, a reconditioned caravan equipped with the latest old 4 track in the business. His website is: paulclifford.moonfruit.com.

Corentin “Cory” Seznec (vocals, strings, harmonica) is a Franco-American musician born in France and raised in the USA. A multicultural household, extensive travels and musical encounters, and a passion for history exposed Cory to sounds from around the world, helping him to develop his own distinct style that reflects his broad interests. Cory received a masters degree in history from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and has a BA in history from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. More information can be found on his website: coryseznec.com

Michael Ward-Bergeman (vocals, accordion) is a passionate performer, songwriter and composer from Long Island, New York. His sensitive and creative approach to music making has led to performances and collaborations with world-class musicians and composers from across a wide range of genres. Michael is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. More information can be found on his website: mjwb.co.uk

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