



HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT  
JOHNETTE DOWNING:

## Los Angeles Times

"The yummy ingredients in this rich musical gumbo include the spicy Louisiana lilt in Johnette Downing's voice, and irresistible Cajun and Creole rhythms in playfully evocative songs about 'gators, 'skeeters, crawfish, a stroll by the bayou, a hoppin' kitchen band and a werewolf named Loup Garou."

**Los Angeles Times**

## The Washington Post

"CAN'T-MISS TITLE: *MUSIC TIME!*"

**The Washington Post**

## Daily News

LOS ANGELES

"Gentle Cajun and Creole for the toddler set with an eye on participation. Your kids won't be able to sit still or stop smiling."

**L.A. Daily News**

## GRAMMY® . COM

"Children's singer, arts advocate and preschool music teacher Johnette Downing, nicknamed the "Pied Piper for Louisiana music traditions," serves up a mélange of Cajun, Creole, Southern blues, Caribbean and boogie-woogie influences."

**"Education Watch" - Grammy Foundation**



"Downing, best known for her Cajun crooning, here marries the genre to a hit kid theme: ocean life. She dips a toe in both rock and country, but her New Orleans roots shine through on the bluesy "Amphibians" and a zydeco ode to crawfish, 'L'ecrivisse."

**Cookie magazine**



## Splashy Hits

"Just in time for Mardi Gras, New Orleans native Johnette Downing returns with her seventh children's music CD, *Fins and Grins*, a sophisticated collection of jazz and blues-tinged sing-along songs about life under the sea."

**Nick Jr. Family Magazine**



## Parenting®

### Parenting Picks: This month's best music!

"Stingrays shuffle and clamshells clap in these Cajun, Zydeco and Creole tunes by the New Orleans-based musician. The songs also slip in factoids about underwater life."

**Parenting magazine**

## FamilyFun

### Best New Audio!

"New Orleans native Johnette Downing whips up a savory jambalaya of blues- and Dixie-flavored tunes inspired by the Crescent City's 'second lines,' or street parades. Even when kids don't feel like playing along, they'll get a kick out of just listening to these practically percolating rhythms."

**FamilyFun magazine**

## The Times-Picayune

"The children had a foot-stompin', hip-shakin' good time."

**The Times-Picayune**

## New Orleans

"Her interactive performances have children and adults dancing and singing along to irresistible songs – no kidding."

**New Orleans Magazine**



"Johnette Downing's sixth children's album is her most delightful yet. Mostly influenced by Cajun and Zydeco from her native New Orleans, these original and traditional songs have a common theme: sea animals. Downing's gentle voice invites listeners to sing and move along with the music ... This inspiring music will be welcomed by teachers and librarians."

**School Library Journal**



"New Orleans musician Johnette Downing's latest is a collection of 16 songs celebrating the fabulous diversity of aquatic life ... Downing conveys a wealth of accurate information with a light touch that goes down easy ... The seasoned and engaging performer is clearly at ease with rhythm and blues, Cajun music, and other musical styles. Well-known New Orleans musicians, including Jimmy LaRocca (jazz trumpet) and Bruce Daigerpont (Cajun accordion), are also featured. A marvelous listening experience."

**Booklist**



## SPRING MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Here's a peek at some of the season's notable forthcoming releases in music and video. New Orleans native Downing dedicates her fifth CD to the 4,000 marine animals at the city's aquarium that perished in Hurricane Katrina and celebrates them in songs about the circle of life. Renowned Louisiana musicians, including jazz trumpeter Jimmy LaRocca, accompany Downing, making this an authentic hometown affair."

**Publishers Weekly**



"Enthusiastically recommended. Superbly recorded and energetically performed ... *Fins And Grins* is a welcome and appropriate addition to family, day-care center, preschool, elementary school, and community library CD music collections for children."

**Midwest Book Review**

## **The Morning Call**      **Go fish for fun music**

"A spicy new CD for kids by Louisiana native Johnette Downing is just in time for Mardi Gras. *Fins and Grins*, dedicated to the marine animals that died at the New Orleans aquarium during Hurricane Katrina, features 13 marine animal- themed songs with a Cajun twist. Energetic and upbeat, the CD explores music styles ranging from jazz, Cajun, Creole to zydeco while spinning fun and educational tales about frogs, turtles and other critters. Working in conjunction with the aquarium, Downing combines accurate factual material with an authentic New Orleans sound replete with jazz trumpet, accordion and violin. And how many CDs teach you that amphibians "drink" through their skin?"

**The Morning Call (Allentown, PA)**



"Kids can become part of the show, dancing the zydeco two-step, singing along and grooving to her original songs. [Downing] has a lot of influences: Dixieland Jazz, Jazz, Cajun, Creole, Zydeco and Afro-Caribbean rhythms."

**Raleigh News & Observer**

## **Gambit Weekly**

"This local performer has won numerous national awards for her ability to translate Louisiana music traditions into mini-parties for her kid fans. In the great Louisiana tradition, Downing sees her role not just as performer, but as a needed spark to get her audiences up and dancing. Here's a chance for kids to get their necessary introductions to second lines and zydeco."

**Gambit Weekly**



**education.com** “Bonnie Raitt, move over! There's a new(er) blues belter in town. And she's easy on the ears. New Orleans singer-songwriter Johnette Downing has a velvet set of pipes, but instead of using them to sing of men who've done her wrong, she's belting out tunes about penguins and stingrays, crawfish and hermit crabs. Still, backed by Jimmy LaRocca of the Original Dixieland Jazz Band on trumpet and Bruce Daigerpont on Cajun accordion, you can almost imagine kicking back for a listen with a bowl of gumbo at a café in the French Quarter. She does Louisiana's long tradition of Creole, Cajun, and Zydeco proud.”

**Education.com**



“*Fins and Grins*, the newest release from award-winning New Orleans musician Johnette Downing, is not just amazingly fun to listen to (even for parents!), it is seeping with educational value, as well. The music celebrates aquatic life with abandon, and kids will sing songs about everything from crawfish to clamshells while you know they're getting the facts about animals right: not only is the album dedicated to the creatures that perished at the Aquarium of the Americas during Hurricane Katrina, the Aquarium's education department shared resources and even checked the album's content for accuracy.”

**Baton Rouge Parents**



“This New Orleans native singer/songwriter takes the music of her life -- cajun, zydeco and jazz -- and mixes it into a kid-friendly gumbo.”

**South Florida Parenting**

*For more information about **Johnette Downing** or to schedule an interview, please contact Elizabeth Waldman Frazier at Waldmania! 415.334.2787 or [waldmania@comcast.net](mailto:waldmania@comcast.net). Check out Johnette's website at [www.johnettedowning.com](http://www.johnettedowning.com).*