



Rodney Balfa

1934 - 1979

Rodney Balfa was born on May 24, 1934, to Charles and Amay Ardoin Balfa. He was the seventh of nine children, six boys and three girls. He was born and raised on a small farm in the community of Grand Louis located about five miles west of Mamou, Louisiana. Rodney married Anna Lou West and together they raised their children, Tony, Patricia, Ricky and Angelia. He and his brother, Will, were killed in a tragic car accident in Bunkie, Louisiana, on February 6, 1979.

Rodney and his brothers, Dewey and Will, along with Rodney's son, Tony, traveled the world playing traditional Cajun music as the "Balfa Brothers." They were usually accompanied by Nathan Abshire or *Nonc* Allie Young on accordion.

Today their music can still be heard. Their recordings include "The Balfa Brothers Play Traditional Cajun Music" (Swallow 6011), "The Balfa Brothers Play More Traditional Cajun Music" (Swallow 6019), "*Je Vu Le Renard Et La Belette*" (Swallow 6037).

Whether they were performing at the Newport Folk Festival, President Nixon's Inauguration, Canada, France or local festivals, they were always well received.