

TOM RIGNEY & FLAMBEAU

Tom Rigney, the fiery, electrifying violinist/composer, joins forces with some of the finest musicians on the San Francisco roots music scene to form **Tom Rigney and Flambeau**, a band that generates enough heat and energy to ignite a dance floor or lift an audience to its feet. Now into his second decade as the leader of **Flambeau**, the flamboyant Rigney has leapt dramatically into the spotlight as a performer and as a composer. **Flambeau** showcases his passionate, virtuoso fiddling, his commanding, charismatic stage presence, his range and originality as a composer, and, of course, those notorious red boots! His band-mates are all longtime veterans of the Bay Area roots music scene and together they have forged a unique sound that blends American Roots styles into something completely original and HOT--a sound that mixes irresistibly infectious grooves with deep musicality, tight ensemble playing, and spectacular solos.

Flambeau specializes in blazing Cajun and zydeco two-steps, low-down blues, funky New Orleans grooves, Boogie Woogie piano, and heartbreakingly beautiful ballads and waltzes. Most of the repertoire is composed by Rigney, but they also mix in a few classics from the Cajun/zydeco/New Orleans songbook. And if, along the way, you pick up a trace of Rigney's Irish roots, or echoes of Eastern Europe or the coast of Spain, it just makes the musical gumbo that much tastier. In recent years Rigney's skills as a composer have broadened and deepened, and he is today writing some of the most evocative and compelling music you will hear anywhere. His violin playing is ferociously virtuosic one minute, and tonally rich and emotionally charged the next. And Rigney's charismatic stage presence, humor, and high-energy showmanship pull the audience into his performances and make them feel that they are a part of the music and the show.

Tom Rigney and Flambeau were voted **Best Cajun/Zydeco Band of 2004** by the **West Coast Blues Hall of Fame** and they have been tearing it up at festivals--Blues, Jazz, and Folk--performing arts centers, concerts, dances, and nightclubs from San Francisco to Fort Lauderdale to Ecaussines, Belgium. Their critically acclaimed debut CD, "**Red Boots and Rice**", was released on the Parhelion label in late 2000. Many other releases have followed, including a live CD and DVD video in 2007 and Rigney's two Blues violin CDs, the second of which, "**Back Porch Blues**", hit **Number 1** on the **XM/Sirius Satellite Radio's Bluesville Radio Chart** in September, 2009. **Flambeau's** latest release, "**Serious Fun**", was unleashed on the unsuspecting world in 2010, and people haven't stopped dancing and partying since! This is a band you have to hear!

THE MEMBERS OF FLAMBEAU ARE:

DANNY CARON: Guitar. During the 1990's, Danny toured the world as guitarist and music director for blues/jazz great, **Charles Brown**. He is a master of many styles of American roots music, blues to jazz to zydeco, and his inspired improvisation and fiery soloing make him an excellent foil for Rigney.

CAROLINE DAHL: Piano. Caroline brings a strong element of Boogie Woogie and New Orleans-style piano to the band, in addition to her dynamic stage presence. For the past twenty years she has been a mainstay of the Bay Area roots music scene, earning a reputation as a brilliant soloist and a strong ensemble player.

BRENT RAMPONE: Drums. Brent is a powerhouse drummer, whose grooves have an infectious, upbeat feel that is the foundation of the **Flambeau** sound. He has been in great demand for more than twenty years around the Bay Area roots music scene, and is the newest member of **Flambeau**, joining the band in 2006.

STEVE PARKS: Electric Bass. Steve is a rock-solid bassist (and soulful vocalist), whose big tone and deep groove sense anchor the bottom end of the **Flambeau** sound. He is a longtime mainstay of the Bay Area blues and R and B scene, having performed and recorded with numerous bands over the past twenty years.