

Buckwheat Zydeco's **LAY YOUR BURDEN DOWN:**

Lay Your Burden Down ends up being Dural's most accomplished and mature album yet, moving from start to finish like everything belongs together. Nothing misses its mark, and several tracks do so much more than that... He has given us something else again, an album that works both at the dance party and still rings clear the next day when maybe it's time to dig deeper and do a little thinking. It's the best kind of musical synthesis.

– *Allmusic.com*

You can't attack a levee with a guitar, but Buckwheat Zydeco and Sonny Landreth seem to try on "When the Levee Breaks..." It's a startling and potent opening to an album that goes on to subvert all expectations... There's almost too much life on this near-bursting release, proving that thirty years into the music game, Buckwheat Zydeco is still brimming with ideas. – *Rhapsody.com*

The results are stunning...The entire work is a vibrant testament to Buckwheat Zydeco's spirit, reminding us that Louisiana's musical heritage has taken all the hurricanes could give. This is an album that can introduce a new generation of music fans to the world of Zydeco music and serve as a wonderful reminder about what a great Zydeco band can do. – *Living Blues*

Producer Steve Berlin captures Dural's natural bayou bounce but lets him wander into other territory while keeping one foot firmly in zydeco... But Dural's sound is as steeped in blues as in the joyous Louisiana soul at the heart of this outstanding, wonderfully diverse set. – *Blues Revue*

On this sucker he nails it firm and deep...The opener "When The Levee Breaks," the Memphis Minnie/Kansas Joe McCoy classic known to rock fans from Led Zep's version, signals that something magical is happening here with its Louisiana-style Southern rock fury...With the able assistance of Steve Berlin as producer, the singer and accordionist creates a potent brand of Greater Gulf Music...By the time this delicious disc cools down on the closing grace note instrumental waltz of "Finding My Way Back Home," you know you're in the presence of bayou music greatness. – *Blurt.com*

Ace accordionist Buckwheat Zydeco (Stanley Dural) celebrates his 30th anniversary in the business with the hands-down best album he's ever waxed, moving away from straight zydeco and into a vital, ultra-soulful zone of his own... Is this the r & b-based zydeco with which Dural made his bones? No. It's something deeper and better. – *The Boston Herald*

Album of The Week: Buckwheat Zydeco, has been carrying the torch for his eponymous music for more than three decades... He is a fine accordionist, but there's always been more to his sound. He is a gutsy pianist and organist who earned his stripes in a funk/soul band, and he functions brilliantly outside the confines of Zydeco... Alligator Records evidently thought that regrouping Dural and his former producer might ignite some lively

music, and Berlin was brought in to supervise *Lay Your Burden Down*, Buckwheat Zydeco's label debut. The notion has paid off with a vastly entertaining and appealingly diverse package.... Bandleader Dural remains an ever-engaging vocalist and a whiz on any keyboard he touches. So, for Buckwheat Zydeco fans, *Lay Your Burden Down* finds the maestro and his group near the top of their form. For listeners with less interest in the ol' accordion get-down, the collection supplies enough interesting wrinkles to get the good times rolling. – *Sonicboomers.com*

Dural has put together a collection of thoughtful, wide-ranging songs that may not have been originally intended for the accordion, but still come up pulsating with the Buckwheat spirit... they create a work of intense emotion, passion and hearty good times... It's a fine album, mixing Dural's multi-talented approach, thoughtful songwriting, and elegant production. – *Pittsburg Post-Gazette*

Buckwheat Zydeco (Stanley Dural Jr.), (is) in terrific form on *Lay Your Burden Down*... Buckwheat Zydeco shines on accordion and vocals, and his tight band is superbly captured by producer Steve Berlin of Los Lobos. – *Detroit Free Press*

Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural Jr. and his namesake band are not just about zydeco, although that infectiously propulsive dance music of the singer-accordionist's native southern Louisiana is at the heart of just about everything the group does... Its new album, *Lay Your Burden Down*...(is) a richly substantive collection that faces up to hard times while conveying a joyous sense of resilience. – *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural celebrates his 30th year as a zydeco trailblazer with a soulful bayou-steeped set of originals and covers by artists as diverse as Jimmy Cliff, Bruce Springsteen and Captain Beefheart. – *USA Today*