



Artist Bio

Originally from upstate New York and later Santa Fe, New Mexico, Christine Albert moved to Austin, Texas in 1982. Since that time she has evolved into the consummate "Texas Chanteuse", combining her musical influences from Texas to Paris, Haggard to Piaf.

Christine's French grandmother lived in Paris and her mother was born in Switzerland, so she was surrounded by the French language and culture throughout her childhood. In a Santa Fe high school French class she discovered the music of Edith Piaf and the sounds of a Parisian café began to show up in the music of this country/folk singer-songwriter. Throughout her career she has continued to move naturally and gracefully between the genres.

Since the 1992 release of the bilingual "Texafrance" and the 2003 follow up "Texafrance-Encore!", Christine Albert has been enchanting audiences with her Franco-Lone Star fusion described by The Austin American-Statesman as "a waltz across Texas with Maurice Chevalier". Dirty Linen Magazine commented that Christine "sings in an expressive soprano with just enough twang to make the Cajun/Texas flavor evident and just enough crispness to inhabit effectively the more Parisian of the tunes she chooses." "Texafrance-Encore!" was produced by Albert's husband and partner, Chris Gage, and featured a mixed bag of music, from the familiar "Mademoiselle de Paris" and jazz master Stephane Grapelli's lively "Coucou" to the 18th-century ballad-turned-folk-song "Plaisir d'Amour". Both CDs were critically acclaimed and are beloved by many.

April 2008 was a fitting month for the release of "Paris, Texafrance" – the third in the "Texafrance" series. Again produced by Chris Gage, the CD includes songs by Albert's inspiration, Edith Piaf, as well as tunes from Charles Trenet with English translations handled by Ms. Albert. The music is warm and acoustic and the character of a 100 year old Bechstein grand piano in Gage's hands is the centerpiece. Ms. Albert's voice has matured and "the possessor of one of the best and purest voices in Austin, Texas" (*3rd Coast Magazine*) shines on this outing.

She casts a wide net for her material and also includes "L'air de la Louisiane" by Jesse Winchester and "The French Song" – a bilingual country song that was a hit in 1963 for Canadian Lucille Starr.

Christine Albert bio – page 2

Throughout her live show Christine weaves stories of her own European heritage and more than three decades in Texas, creating a very personal, bilingual interpretation of the classic French sound. Christine is available for concert performances with a full 6 piece band or a small trio.

She has performed on stage with Ballet Austin in Stephen Mills' ballet "Red Roses", choreographed to the music of Edith Piaf, presents an annual romantic Valentine's celebration in Austin, Texas and has brought her French show to The San Angelo Museum of Art, the Houston International Festival, The Texas French Symposium/San Antonio, Texas A&M University at Kingsville, Austin Community College and numerous other events.

Christine is also available to perform her French music in a classroom setting. After all, France is one of the six flags that have flown over Texas and it's a piece of our Texas history that is too often overlooked!

"Texafrance-Ecoutez!" is a collection of listening comprehension exercises at the beginning, intermediate and advanced level created by Jacki Thomas, Regents Professor of French at Texas A&M – Kingsville, as a companion to the music on Christine's "Texafrance" series of recordings. Music can be an effective and inspiring tool for learning a language and Christine's live performance of the material and her personal story make the culture come to life. It is an enjoyable way for students to see grammar used in context and to expand their vocabulary.

The collection includes a word list for each song, two sets of comprehension questions - one in English, the other in French - and supplementary information about some of the songs, their composers or artists who have made them famous. There is also a grammatical index and a complete listing of all the vocabulary items (with over 500 entries).

The lessons can be invaluable to teachers who have students from different levels in the same classroom or in a public museum or library performance setting with audience members who are studying French and may enjoy the challenge of completing the exercises.

Schools, libraries and other non-profit presenters can apply for a grant through the Texas Commission on the Arts "Arts Respond Performance Support" program to cover a portion of Ms. Albert's performance fee.

When Ms. Albert is not donning her chanteuse chapeau / hat, she is one half of the popular Texas Americana duo "Albert and Gage," with her husband Chris Gage. Together they have released 6 CDs and toured in a dozen countries, on their own and with Jimmie Dale Gilmore

and Slaid Cleaves. They own and manage MoonHouse Records and MoonHouse Studio in Austin.

Christine has appeared on Austin City Limits, written and performed her own "Don't Mess With Texas" radio ad and was featured in a popular Bluebell Ice Cream television commercial. She was voted Female Vocalist of the Year at the 1996 Kerrville Music Awards.

An active and committed community volunteer, Christine is co-founder, president and project manager for Swan Songs (www.swansongs.org), an Austin area non-profit that organizes private concerts for individuals at the end of life with their favorite Texas musician. In 2007 she was elected to represent the Texas Chapter on the National Board of Trustees of The Recording Academy.



A Potpourri of Reviews

"PARIS, TEXAFRANCE" (2008)

"Paris, Texafrance" (MoonHouse) is Christine Albert's third recording in her utterly charming series of French songs recorded in Texas, accompanied by husband/partner Chris Gage whose production polishes this little gem...Gage's choice in using spare instrumentation – sometimes only a piano – with Albert's lovely voice enhances Paris, Texafrance's warm summery feel. Many stars all around."

The Austin Chronicle

"One of the best and purest female voices in Austin, Texas." **3rd Coast Music**

"TEXAFRANCE-ENCORE!" (2003)

"Christine Albert does a fine job of blending her southwestern singer/songwriter interests with her family's native roots in France and Switzerland...she sings in an expressive soprano with just enough twang to make the Cajun/Texas flavor evident and just enough crispness to inhabit effectively the more Parisian of the tunes she chooses." ***Dirty Linen***

"It's no coincidence this album came out around Valentine's Day, because its beauty is not just in the music, but in its sheer romantic atmosphere, the kind you need no partner to enjoy." ***The Austin Chronicle***

"Light and airy, this easy listening, upbeat collection perfectly suits Albert's voice that can sound throatily French where necessary, and filled with sunshine when singing of l'amour...which she does repeatedly on the collection." ***Folkwax***

"TEXAFRANCE" (1992)

"Never committing fully to either country or cabaret, Albert has deftly created a whole new musical category of her own." ***Music City Texas***

"The songs are in French and English, have both traditional and contemporary arrangements, and are handled in Christine's usual classy style. The vocals on this album are born of pure emotion; she's going to have a tough time topping this one." ***Kerrville Daily Times***

"As a mixture of Patsy and Piaf, the synthesis goes down easier than whiskey and beer at a French cabaret – or Dom Perignon at the Broken Spoke." ***Austin American-Statesman***

"The concept of melding the airy passion of Edith Piaf with the Texas honky-tonk tradition sounds like Monty Python source material, but Albert's achy, crystal voice sounds so good in both languages that this project doesn't just float – it flies in spots." ***The Austin Chronicle***

Complete reviews are available at www.christinealbert.com/reviews.htm



Some places Christine has performed her French Show...

The San Angelo Museum of Art
St. Edwards University
Houston International Festival
The Texas French Symposium - San Antonio
Texas A&M University - Kingsville
Austin Community College
The French Legation - Austin
The Brackenridge Hospital Foundation Dinner - Austin
Bass Concert Hall with Ballet Austin
Chicago House - Austin
Wild Basin Nature Preserve Performance Space - Austin
Annual Gala for SafePlace – Austin
Texas Foreign Language Teachers Association conference – Austin
St. David's Toast of the Town – Austin

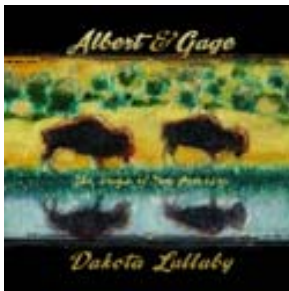
Performances with Albert and Gage...

The Birchmere – Washington, D.C.
Kerrville Folk Festival - Texas
Cottonwood Festival - Texas
Wildflower Festival - Texas
Acoustic Sounds Café - Arkansas
Austin to Acadia Concert Series - Maine
The Ark - Michigan
Botanic Gardens Summer Nights Series - New Mexico
Washington Pavilion - South Dakota
The Living Tradition - California
Countless gigs all over Germany
Bad Ischl Festival - Austria
Thunderbird Café - Belgium
Summerfolk Festival - Canada
Silkeborg Festival - Denmark
Floralia Festival - Holland
Country Music Club of Italy - Italy
Klevenalp Festival - Switzerland

Christine Albert

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Discography



ALBERT and GAGE
Dakota Lullaby
 MH2908 2009



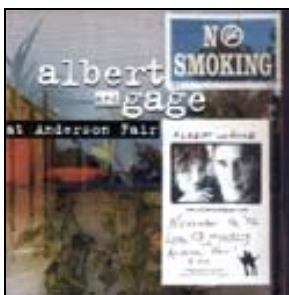
CHRISTINE ALBERT
Paris, Texafrance
 MH2906 2008



ALBERT and GAGE
Cry Love
 MH2904 2006



CHRISTINE ALBERT
Texafrance-Encore!
 MH2899 2003



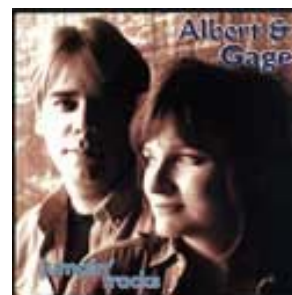
ALBERT and GAGE
at Anderson Fair
 MH2900 2003



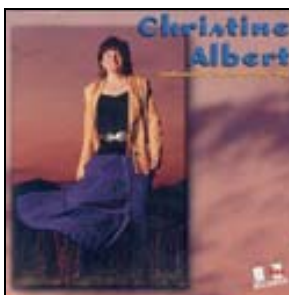
ALBERT and GAGE
Burnin' Moonlight
 MH2896 2001



ALBERT and GAGE
One More Christmas
 MH2898 2001



ALBERT and GAGE
Jumpin' Tracks
 MH3121 1997



CHRISTINE ALBERT
Underneath The Lone Star Sky
 Antone's / dos Records
 1995



CHRISTINE ALBERT
The High Road
 Gambini Global 1993



CHRISTINE ALBERT
Texafrance
 MH2897
 (original release:
 Gambini Global 1992)

