

# **Award winning Créole Banjoist guitarist vocalist, considered one of the best banjoists in the history of New Orleans and credited with preserving Créole culture.**

Don Vappie, New Orleans musician/entertainer, is the number one New Orleans Jazz banjoist performing on the planet today. He's been a headliner at festivals and concert halls around the world including Carnegie Hall in New York City. Honoring the tradition of his predecessor, banjoist Danny Barker, Don has kept alive Créole songs of New Orleans and has been honored with awards from Créole society for preserving this cultural treasure. He embodies all aspects of the unique melting pot of cultures that is New Orleans. This is evident through the list of artists he's performed with. They include Wynton Marsalis, Eric Clapton, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Peggy Lee, Otis Taylor, Diana Krall, Bette Midler, Preservation Hall. He also embodies the banjos evolution from Africa through seamless performances with artists from Mali, Cheik Hamamla Diabate and Basaku Kuyata, and from Senegal, Dema Dia.

Don can be heard on numerous recordings of his own and various other artists including the classical world where he arranged and orchestrated three of HARRY Reeser's classic banjo solos pieces from the 1920s into an orchestral suite entitled the Reeser Suite and was also the soloist for the naxals recording with the Hot Springs music Festival Orchestra in which received critical acclaim as a banjo virtuoso. Don speaks the language of jazz with the New Orleans accent.