



Your Panorama track for September

is one of two we've released that were recorded on a 2015 gig at the Old US Mint which is operated by the Louisiana State Museum and the National Park Service (see also *Dansez La Mazouk*, from April, 2015)

A chocheck is a traditional dance from the Roma people ("Gypsies") of Southeastern Europe. Although the

step is different, the groove is very similar to a New Orleans second line. Dig, if you will, Matt Perrine's reference to "Hey Pocky Way" in the tuba vamp behind the clarinet solo. And pay special attention for one of my favorite moments in all of Panorama's recorded history. After Matt Schreiber's accordion solo (right around the Golden Mean, I might add), alto sax man, Tomas Majcherski cues the rhythm section to step it down from C to Bb minor at the same time that I pick up the tambourine. Then Tomas rips a solo that I've listened to so many times, I think I can sing from memory.

Once many years ago when our car broke down on the way to a gig in Baton Rouge, as we waited for the rescue vehicle, we got into a riff on the words "towtruck" and "chocheck". Since we never learned the actual title of this particular chocheck, the name stuck.

I learned the melody from California clarinetist George Chittenden who was on a swing through New Orleans with his Balkan band, Edessa back in the 90s. George had recently returned from a trip to Bulgaria and Turkey and had learned the tune there. When I called him up, however, George no longer recalled the tune or the title.

So, let's just say the folk process is well represented in this whole exchange.

Thanks for your support and thanks for listening!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben'.

Ben Schenck

Panorama Jazz Band

Panorama *BRASS* Band

New Orleans, LA

Recorded March 6th, 2015 @ The Old US Mint, New Orleans, LA.

Ben Schenck - Clarinet, Tambourine

Tomas Majcherski - Alto Saxophone

Jon Ramm - Trombone

Matt Schreiber - Accordion

Patrick Mackey - Tenor Banjo

Matt Perrine - Tuba

Doug Garrison - Drums

Arranged by Ben Schenck

Session engineered by Danny Kadar and Joe Stolarick at The Old US Mint.

Track mixed at Oak Street Recording by Lu Rojas

Graphic design by Daniel Murphy and Ben Schenck

Cover photo by Greg Miles