

Ouvrez les aboiteaux

Lennie Gallant

You have traveled many miles and crossed the years to see this land
This place you were told of many times back in Louisiana
Heard stories of survival and of battle with the tides
Of how les aboiteaux were built to keep the sea outside

So many years of struggle building barriers and drains
Till the waters pulled out by the moon could not return again
How could we know that one day we would share the same dark fate
For we would be torn from the same fields we'd laboured to create

And now our hearts are rising like the tide
For now just like the ocean we look for a way inside

Ouvrez... les aboiteaux
Laisse mon coeur, revenir sur l'eau
Ouvrez... les aboiteaux
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I remember well the ship that tore my lover from my sight
Watched her sail away while soldiers held me in their musket sights
My brother and his wife were calling out to me from shore
As my turn came to be taken from their sight forever more

Smelled the smoke rising from fields where we had beaten back the
sea
I felt sure that this would be the last I'd see of Acadie
A child who stood beside me took my hand and held it tight
From the ship we watched the fields we built all blazing in the night

[pre-chorus and chorus]

Now your father's hearts lie buried in this clay
And they thirst to hear your footsteps here today

[chorus]