

## **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  
Laisse mon coeur, revenir sur l'eau

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]