



The Doctor Is In

A Big Easy legend gets a new sound

Back in 2010, a summit of sorts took place in New Orleans. It was between two men from different generations—one the most celebrated living Big Easy musician, the other a fast-rising star out of Nashville (by way of Akron, Ohio). The younger man came bearing a bold promise. If he were allowed to produce the legend's next release, it would be, he said, "the best record you've made in a long time."

Those men were Mac Rebennack, a.k.a. Dr. John, and Dan Auerbach, singer and guitarist of gut-bucket rock duo The Black Keys. The product of their cross-generational partnership, *Locked Down*, comes out April 3. It's a fully assured, hard-rocking, big-sounding swamp beast slicked with an appropriate sheen of NOLA grease. And as promised, it's as good as anything the Doctor has done in years. "For my money, Mac's one of the greatest who ever was and ever will be," Auerbach says. "I'm so honored to have had this opportunity." Dr. John is more succinct: "It was way cool," he says. "It was real hip."