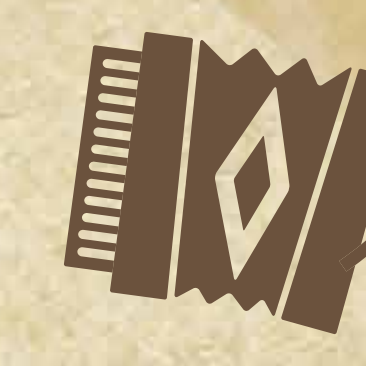


HISTORY OF CAJUN & ZYDECO MUSIC



DOC GUIDRY (1915-1992)

Born Oran Guidry in Lafayette, Louisiana. Guidry played fiddle as well as the mandolin. He played alongside many Cajun musicians during his career.

1915

AMÉDÉ ARDOIN (1898-1942)

Ardoin is considered to be a very important influential musical figure for both Cajun and Zydeco music as he was a Creole accordion player and vocalist. Ardoin was known for his signature high singing voice as well as being a skilled accordionist. He often partnered up with Cajun fiddler, **Dennis McGee** (1893-1989).

1898

NATHAN ABSHIRE (1915-1981)

Born in Gueydan, Louisiana. Amédé Ardoin, Creole musician, was a heavy influence on Abshire's accordion playing and singing style. One of his most well-known hits is "Pine Grove Blues" released in 1949, which is considered his signature song.

1915

DEWEY BALFA (1927-1992)

Born in Bayou Grand Louis, Louisiana. Balfa was a Cajun fiddler who came from a family of fiddlers. He played with his brothers and formed the Balfa Brothers. Some of great works included "Cajun Fiddle Old and New" and "Fait à la Main."

1927

IRY LEJEUNE (1928-1955)

Born in Pointe Noire, Louisiana. Lejeune along with Abshire is responsible for the reemergence of the accordion in Cajun music. He met Eddie Shuler, Lake Charles record producer, in 1947, and he let Lejeune play his accordion on the radio and eventually recorded at Shuler's Goldband Records. Lejeune went on to become a successful and influential Cajun artist selling many records, some included "Lacassine Special" and "Calcasieu Waltz," spending much of his life South of Lacassine.

1928

IMPORTANT MUSICIANS IN THE STRING-BAND ERA

Leo Soileau and J.B. Fuselier
In the mid-40s, right after WWII, popular Cajun musicians who emerged during this time were being recognized for bringing accordion playing back into Cajun music. This period was termed "The Return of the Accordion."

Mid-40s

SAVOY-DOUCET CAJUN BAND

The band is a trio that includes accordionist Marc Savoy, who is also known for being one of the best known accordion makers; Savoy's wife, Ann Savoy and Michael Doucet. Some of the band's albums include *Home Music With Spirits* and *Sam's Big Rooster*.



LAWRENCE WALKER (1908-1968)

Born near Scott, Louisiana. Walker learned to play accordion as well as the fiddle from his family. Along with Lejeune and Abshire, he is considered a very important accordion player coming up during the reemergence of the instrument being played.

1908

HARRY CHOATES (1922-1951)

Choates released his own version of "Jolie Blonde" in 1946, and it is considered one of the best versions to ever be recorded of the song.

1922

"ROCKING' SIDNEY" SIMIEN (1938-1998)

Simien recorded "My Toot Toot" and released it 1985, which is one of the most successful Zydeco hits of all-time, even earned him a GRAMMY. He reenergized interest in Zydeco music with his international hit, and he spent time recording in his home studio in Lake Charles, purchased KAOK-AM Radio station, and several of his songs have become Zydeco staples, covered regularly by other bands.

1938

"THE RETURN OF THE ACCORDION"

Shirley Bergeron, Austin Pitre, and Belton Richard

Other important Cajun musicians followed after the major great Cajun/Creole players that made a mark in music history. Following the lead of their predecessors, these musicians also have made a name for themselves along with many others.



STEVE RILEY AND THE MAMOU PLAYBOYS (1980s)

Popular internationally known Cajun band found by Steve Riley in the late 1980s. Some of the band's many albums include, *La Toussaint*, *Grand Isle*, and *Bon Rêve*.

1980s

Cajun music is an emblematic music of Louisiana and is rooted in the ballads of the French-speaking Acadians of Canada.



JOSEPH FALCON (1900-1965)

Popular Cajun vocalist and accordionist in the early twentieth century. He recorded the first Cajun record, along with his wife **Cleoma Breaux Falcon**, (1905-1941).

1900

CAJUN MUSIC INFUSED ITS WAY INTO ZYDECO

Cajun music infused its way into Zydeco. Zydeco is parallel to Cajun music. The influence of the music comes from a blend of African, Creole, blues, and French music.

1908

CLIFTON CHENIER (1925-1987)

He was known as the "King of Zydeco" during his career and is still considered "King of Zydeco" to his many followers and fans today. Amédé Ardoin was a major influence for him in his music. Chenier recorded his first record at Lake Charles radio station, KAOK-AM, that was later picked up by a major record company in Los Angeles. Some of his many hits from his records included "Boppin' the Rock" and "Ai 'Tit Fille (Hey Little Girl)."

1925

1938

IMPORTANT MUSICIANS IN EARLY CAJUN MUSIC

Sady Courville, Wade Frugé, and Amédé Breaux
The mid-30s and early to mid-40s, the accordion was rarely used as the main instrument, it was during this time period that the fiddle played the key instrument in Cajun music. This era is often referred to as the string-band era of Cajun music. New popular Cajun musicians emerged from this time period.

Mid 30s-40s

JOHN DELAFOSE AND THE EUNICE PLAYBOYS

The band was one of the most successful Zydeco bands in the Gulf coast. Some of their releases included "Heartaches and Hot Steps," "Joe Pete Got Two Women," and "Zydeco Excitement."



BALFA TOUJOURS (1992)

The group formed out of Basile, Louisiana in 1992 as a tribute to the Balfa Brothers Band. Some of their albums include, *La Pointe* and *Deux Voyages*.

1992

ALPHONSE "BOIS SEC" ARDOIN (1915-2007)

Born in Duralde, Louisiana. Bois Sec was Amédé Ardoin's cousin. A self-taught accordionist, Ardoin formed a partnership with Creole fiddler **Canray Fontenot** and called themselves the **Duralde Ramblers**. They released an album in 1966 called *Le Blues du Bayou*, which consisted of French ballads and quick two step. He also was the front of the **Ardoin Brothers Band** along with collaborating with other Cajun/Zydeco bands throughout his career.

1915

QUEEN IDA (BORN 1929)

Born Ida Lee Lewis, Queen Ida, was raised in a musically talented family, learning to play the accordion and piano. She was the first Zydeco artist to tour in Japan, later touring in Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Her band was featured on Saturday Night Live in 1985. She's a GRAMMY winning artist who has also won 4 Blues Music Awards.

1929

THE HACKBERRY RAMBLERS

The Cajun group was found in 1933 by **Luderin Darbone** and **Edwin Duhan**. Darbone learned to play the fiddle at 10 years old. Years later he partnered up with childhood friend, Edwin, who played the accordion and guitar. The original lineup included, Darbone as bandleader, **Lennis Sonnier** as vocalist; the guitarists of the group were **Glen Croker**, **Lonnie Rainwater**, **Floyd Shreve**, and **Jose Werner**. **Jonnie Parket** on bass and Edwin playing accordion and eventually guitar in band. By 1935, the group was the most successful Cajun band in Southwest Louisiana. One of their earliest successful records was their version of "Jolie Blonde" released in 1936. They were the first to use electronic amplification in Southwest Louisiana.

1933

BEAUSOLEIL AVEC MICHAEL DOUCET

One of the most well-known Cajuns groups. They have released dozens of albums and tour all around the world. Some of their many albums include, *The Spirit of Cajun Music*, *Bayou Boogie*, *Cajun Conja*, and *Gitane Cajun*.



ALDUS ROGER (1916-1999)

Born in Carencro, Louisiana. He was an accordion player who was strongly inspired by Lawrence Walker and Amédé Ardoin. Roger was leader of the Lafayette Playboys.

1916

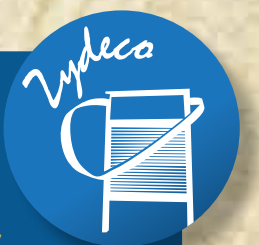
BOOZOO CHAVIS (1930-2001)

Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana. First hit was "Paper in My Shoe." Chavis was crowned as "The King of Zydeco" in New Orleans in the 1990s, and every September, crowds can hear Chavis family members and other Zydeco musicians playing music during the Boozoo Chavis Labor Day Festival in Lake Charles.

1930

OTHER MAJOR ZYDECO PLAYERS

Geno Delafosse, Rockin' Dopsie, Buckwheat Zydeco, Beau Jocque, GRAMMY Winner Terrance Simien, Keith Frank, Solleau Band, Chris Ardoin and Sean Ardoin, along with many others.



OTHER IMPORTANT AND POPULAR CAJUN MUSICIANS

The Jambalaya Cajun Band, Zachary Richard, D.L. Menard, Chuck Guillory and the Rhythm Boys, Coteau, Paul Daigle, GRAMMY winner Jo-EL Sonnier, along with many others.



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