



GIRARD PARK · LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA



HISTORY OF

Festivals Acadiens et Créoles

In the 1930s, folklorists John and Alan Lomax visited South Louisiana to record Cajun and Creole songs to be added to the Library of Congress Archive of American Folk Song, now the Archive of Folk Culture. It was the first time Cajun and Creole songs were captured on tape for archival purposes.

In 1964, Dewey Balfa, Gladdie Thibodeaux and Louis "Vinesse" Lejeune were invited to perform at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island – the first Cajun musicians ever accorded that honor. Balfa didn't know how the South Louisiana music would be received and was surprised that audience members sat and listened, as opposed to dancing like they did back home.

At the end of Dewey Balfa's set, the audience responded with a standing ovation.

Buoyed by Lomax and inspired by Newport, Balfa was determined to ignite that same respect and adoration in his home state. He came back to Louisiana with a purpose to bring home the echo of that Newport applause back to Louisiana.

The result was "A Tribute to Cajun Music" on March 26, 1974, in Lafayette's Blackham Coliseum. This significant event evolved into today's Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, a culturally rich, multi-layered free festival.

More than 40 years later Festivals Acadiens et Créoles continues to evolve and celebrate the cultures of South Louisiana in Lafayette, the heart of Cajun & Creole Country, with a combination of food, music and cultural demonstrations.



UPCOMING DATES:

October

2015 — 9-11
2016 — 14-16
2017 — 13-15
2018 — 12-14
2019 — 11-13
2020 — 9-11

Lafayette
LOUISIANA

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