

Louisiana PASS



Photograph of washboard player courtesy of Louisiana Office of Tourism.

To learn about a teenage Zydeco band, click on this link.

[Corey Young and Zydeco Teens](#)

To learn more about Zydeco history, click this link.

[Zydeco History](#)

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Z is for Zydeco

Zydeco is a style of music that was created by French Creoles in Louisiana during the 1940's. Zydeco music is upbeat and great for dancing. The name "Zydeco" comes from a French phrase that means "the beans are not salty." During the times when Zydeco started, beans were flavored with salted meats. If times were hard, meat was too expensive, so beans went unsalted. Zydeco music was one of the things that made the hard times a little easier!

Zydeco bands use some unusual instruments, including accordions, fiddles, and laundry washboards. That's right, even laundry washboards can be instruments! When a musician scrapes something across the washboard, a clickety-clack sound is made that is used to keep rhythm for the rest of the band. Thanks to the washboard player, a Zydeco band does not even need a drummer to keep the beat. Recently, Zydeco music has taken on many traits of jazz, blues, and hip-hop. Even though Zydeco music has been around for over fifty years, that doesn't mean it can't keep changing!

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