



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation  
365 Canal Street, #1120 | New Orleans, LA 70130 | 504/524-4784 | 504/524-4780 fax  
[www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com) - The City of New Orleans' Official Tourism Web Site

Lea Sinclair  
Director of Communications  
504/491-5330  
[lea@notmc.com](mailto:lea@notmc.com)

Grace Wilson  
Communications Associate  
504/247-6362  
[grace@notmc.com](mailto:grace@notmc.com)

## NEW ORLEANS MUSIC TOUCHES THE SOUL

### *Hear the Spirit of the Crescent City*

New Orleans, LA – If New Orleans’ food warms the heart, then its music that soothes the soul. Fueling the culture of good times and setting the beat for festivals, parades and parties, barely a thing happens here without a backdrop of funky, jazzy tunes. Music in the Big Easy is more than entertainment, it is the product of a culmination of cultures and an art form that exudes the true essence of the city.

Since slaves first drummed and danced at Congo Square in the 1800s, New Orleans has been a home to some of the world’s greatest music. Buddy Bolden laid the first roots for jazz when he started his first band in 1895. Over the next fifty years, other jazz pioneers such as Jelly Roll Morton and Joe “King” Oliver added faster beats and more improvisation. Trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong would eventually carry New Orleans’ jazz styles into the national spotlight and by the ‘60s, funk and rhythm and blues came into the musical mix.

Today, New Orleans’ musical heritage is carried on by such legendary musicians as Dr. John, Aaron Neville, Harry Connick, Jr., and Fats Domino, all whose musical style and lyrics are heavily-influenced by their hometown. From the Meters “They’d All Ask for You” to Fat’s Domino’s “Walking to New Orleans,” few cities have so many famous songs dedicated to it.

Just about all of the New Orleans cultural traditions are rooted in music. Not a festival or party happens without jazzy beats setting the groove for a good time. Mardi Gras Indians dance and prance around the back streets to their own style of funk; brass bands lead second-lines around the French Quarter; and Mardi Gras marching clubs and krewes all strut to the beats of famous jazz songs. Music lives on in the hearts of some locals even after death as they are sent to their graves in traditional *jazz funeral* processions which feature a joyous processions lead by brass bands.

Whether it’s Rebirth Brass Band at the Maple Leaf, Jon Cleary at Tipitina’s, Jason Marsalis at Snug Harbor or a *two-steppin’* zydeco band at Mid-City Lane’s Rock ‘n’ Bowl, visitors can experience New Orleans’ music in-person any night of the week. All within a few blocks on Bourbon Street, one can find rock, zydeco and cover bands while on Frenchmen Street, jazz and blues keep intimate clubs packed into the wee hours of the morning. Many of the city’s greatest musical acts are honored at events such as the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Satchmo SummerFest and French Quarter Festival.

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC’s marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. Web sites: [www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com); [www.NewOrleansMuseums.com](http://www.NewOrleansMuseums.com); [www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com](http://www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com).

###