

Huval, Terry



Cajun Musician

Fiddler Terry Huval, leader of a very popular Jambalaya Cajun Band, is one of Cajun music's finest fiddlers and songwriters. He is the composer of well-known tunes such as "Huval's Reel" and "Oh Ma Belle." In addition to the fiddle, he plays the guitar, mandolin, dobro, steel guitar, and bass guitar.

An engineer and Director of Utilities for the City of Lafayette, Terry Huval was born in 1956 in Port Arthur, Texas. His family is from St. Martin Parish, from the Breaux Bridge area where he lives now. He speaks both English and Cajun French. He says, "I learned my music when I was ten years old." He has performed for the public every weekend since 1977. Terry and his brother, drummer Tony Huval, formed the "Jambalaya Cajun band." Since that time the band has been joined by accordionist Reggie Matte, Bobby Dumaitrait, and Rick Benoit. Cajun music enthusiasts flock to hear them because of their high energy performances and recordings. Most of their music is original compositions.

Terry Huval's distinctive red cap and agile footwork are hallmarks of the band's live performances. The "Jambalaya Cajun Band" is a favorite among dancers in Louisiana and other states. The band plays at festivals and clubs throughout the United States as well as at home. Their recordings include *Laisse les Jeunes Jouer* ("Let the Young Ones Play"), *The Jambalaya Cajun Band*, and *The Jambalaya Cajun Band Instrumental Collection*. They are also featured on *Nouvelle Esprit de la Musique* on Swallow Records. Their recordings mix Cajun standards like "Les 'Tites Yeux Noirs" ("Little Black Eyes") with newer songs like "Merci Mr. Dewey" (in honor of the later master Cajun fiddler, Dewey Balfa), "Ces Femmes des Musiciens" ("Those Wives of Musicians"), and "C'est Fun".

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