



Joe Hall (accordionist)

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Joe Hall is an American accordionist and vocalist who performs Creole la la, Cajun, and zydeco music.

Hall was born in Eunice, Louisiana.^[1] He now lives in Arnaudville.^[2]

Hall took an early interest in music from watching his grandfather, Clement "King" Ned play accordion for house dances. In an interview, Hall recalls, "That's where I got the love of playing music from. I would watch my grandfather and listen until finally one day, around the age of 7, I turned to my mama and I said, 'I am gonna do that, too.'"^[2] He eventually learned to play accordion from Alphonse "Bois Sec" Ardoin.^[1] He is described as an accordion traditionalist, but he also draws from a broad variety of Cajun, Creole, and zydeco repertoires.^[2] One 2003 reviewer has described his music this way: "The gravelly-voiced Hall decorates his playing with plenty of syncopated accents, octave notes and rhythmic stops that's unlike anything in contemporary zydeco or Cajun. Additionally, the arrangements' 'B' parts also deviate from their Cajun counterparts, which stir in a flavoring all its own."^[3]

Joe Hall	
Born	<u>Eunice, Louisiana, U.S.</u>
Genres	La la, Cajun, zydeco
Occupation(s)	musician
Instrument(s)	accordion, vocals
Years active	2006–present
Labels	Früge Records
Member of	Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters
Website	<u>https://joehallzydeco.com/</u>

Music career

In 2006, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters formed and recorded *La Danse Finit Pas: Classic Louisiana Creole Music*. Hall learned some of the songs by listening to archival recordings at the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This album also featured accordionists Mary Broussard and Nolton Semien on two tracks, Mitch Reed on fiddle, D'Jalma Garnier on guitar, Gus Ardoin on bass, and Dexter Ardoin on drums.^[4]

Other early lineups of the Louisiana Cane Cutters had Dexter Ardoin on bass, Jay Miller on drums, and Kevin Murphy on guitar.

In 2007, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Good Times, Good Music*.

In 2009, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Live at Nunu's*, the first live album recorded at the Arnaudville venue.^[5]

In 2011, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Thirty Dobb Special*, which was also a tribute to Hall's grandfather Clement "King" Ned. Reviewer Dan Willging noted, "Hall is a powerful singer and accordionist, and even though the 11 cuts hail from two different studios and three tracks captured live, he makes it feel like a single session."^[6]

In 2017, Joe Hall recorded *Masse Family Two-Step* under the group name Joe Hall and Friends. This group included Forest Huval (fiddle and vocals), Mark Palms (guitar and fiddle), Carol Palms (bass), and Paul Lavan (drums). "Nu Nu's Breakdown" additionally featured Al Berard (fiddle) and Christine Balfa (guitar), and "La Valse de Samedi Midi" featured Hall's own grandfather, Clement "King" Ned (accordion and vocals), recorded in 1965 by Library of Congress folklorist Ralph Rinzler in 1965.^[7]

In 2019, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Aye Cher Catin* ("Hey, dear doll"^[8]). This album had the same lineup as *Masse Family Two-Step*, with the addition of Marshall Baker (fiddle). Reviewer Dan Willging noted that this album was the first recorded in Fruge's Michigan studio, and called the album "the finest yet recorded by the husky-voiced Creole powerhouse accordionist."^[9]

In 2021, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Proud to be a Creole*. Mark Palms and Paul Lavan continued at guitar and drums respectively, while Chuck Bush replaced Carol Palms at bass. Special guests were Cedric Watson (fiddle and *frottoir*) and Michael Lockett (keyboard).

In 2022, Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters released *Mélange*. Reviewer Daniel Willging noted, "Hall and Watson fit together seamlessly, interlocking into a comfortable, natural groove propelled by drummer Paul Lavan's whipping beats and Bush's motoring but unobtrusive bass playing."^[10]

The current members of the Louisiana Cane Cutters are: Chuck Bush (bass), "Lil" Paul Lavan (drums), Mark Palms (guitar), and Cedric Watson (fiddle).^[11]

Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters are signed to Fruge Records, located in Michigan, and owned by band guitarist Mark Palms.^{[11][9]}

Hall has appeared at several festivals, such as the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Festival International,^[12] Festivals Acadiens et Créoles,^[13] the Louisiana Cajun-Zydeco Festival,^[14] the New York's Swamp in the City Festival,^[15] and the French Quarter Festival.^{[11][16]}

Hall has appeared in two instructional DVDs, *Cajun and Creole Accordion Lesson* volumes I and II, produced by Fruge Records.^[11]

Awards and honors

Joe Hall and the Louisiana Cane Cutters have been nominated for the OffBeat Best of the Beat Award in 2021-22 in the category of Best Zydeco Album, for *Proud to be a Creole*.^[17]

Discography

Joe Hall and Mitch Reed

Album title	Record label	Release year
<i>Joe Hall and Mitch Reed</i>	Independent	2003

Albums with the Louisiana Cane Cutters

Album title	Record label	Release year
<i>La Danse Finit Pas: Classic Louisiana Creole Music</i>	Frugé	2006
<i>Good Times, Good Music</i>	Frugé	2007
<i>Live at Nunu's</i>	Frugé	2009
<i>Thirty Dobb Special</i>	Frugé	2011
<i>Aye Cher Catin</i>	Frugé	2019
<i>Proud to be a Creole</i>	Frugé	2021
<i>Mélange</i>	Frugé	2022

Joe Hall and Friends

Album title	Record label	Release year
<i>Masse Family Two-Step</i>	Frugé	2017

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