



Aldus Roger

Aldus Roger is known as an accordion player whose rhythmic, intricate style influenced scores of young musicians, as the leader of the superb “Lafayette Playboys,” and as a visitor to thousands of Cajun households every Saturday afternoon during the 1950s and 60s via his program on Lafayette's KLFY Channel 10.

Roger was born in Carencro near Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1915. His father, Francis Roger, was an accordionist as was a cousin, Ivy Roger. Aldus Roger began playing the accordion at the age of eight. Aside from his father and cousin, Lawrence Walker and Amédée Breaux were great influences on his music. Roger played his first dance when he was about 21 years old. His first band was a trio with “Art Frémé and Felix Richard.” Married at age 17, for many years Roger supported his family working as a carpenter.

Roger formed the “Lafayette Playboys” in the mid-1940s. The band always featured the best musicians and became known for its polished yet compelling danceable sound. Over the years Roger employed such musicians as Johnnie Allen, Clarence and Phillippe Alleman, Rodney Miller, Aldus “Popeye” Broussard, Claude Sonnier, Roy Morgan, Fernice “Man” Abshire, Daemus Comeaux, Raymond Cormier, T-Paul Bacque, Belton Richard, Doc Guidry, Tony Thibodeaux, Louis Foreman and Johnnie Credeur. The band remained active into the 1970s.

Aldus also enjoyed a long recording career. He first recorded for the TNT label early in the 1950s and recorded for various labels over the course of that decade, releasing such songs as “Lafayette Playboys Waltz,” “Mardi Gras Gig,” “KLFY Waltz,” and “Channel 10 Two-Step.” In the 1960s Roger recorded prolifically for *La Louisianne* and Swallow records. Songs from that period include “Louisiana Waltz,” “Perrodin Two-Step,” “The

Last Waltz,” and “Johnnie Can't Dance.”

Always popular on the dance hall scene, “Aldus Roger and the Lafayette Playboys” reached the height of their popularity in the 1950s and 60s with their weekly TV show. The influence this program had on young Cajun musicians is incalculable: it brought Cajun music to a generation too young to experience the music in the dance halls and provided them musical role models of the highest caliber. Many of today's finest accordion players claim Aldus Roger as a major musical influence.