



Lesa Cormier

Lesa Cormier, son of Lionel Cormier and Lizzie Bass Cormier, was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, August 30, 1930. Lesa was raised in Elton, Louisiana, and graduated from Elton High School. He married Hazel Mott Cormier and have four children, three sons and one daughter.

When Lesa was six years old, his father, Lionel, started teaching him to play the accordion. He was more interested in playing the guitar. He sold garden seeds to pay for his first guitar.

In 1947, Lionel needed a drummer in his band, The Sundown Playboys. Lesa learned enough on the drums in one week to begin playing with the band and is still playing with the "Sundown Playboys" He manages the band since his father died in June of 1971.

Lesa wrote and recorded "Louisiana Gumbo" and "Waltz of my Heart." He played drums on other records such as "Big Boy Bounce," "*La Valse a Rosie Mae*," "Lonesome Waltz," "Black Bayou Special," "Riceville Special," "You're the Only One for Me," "Cajun Cucaracha," "*La Valse Sans Espoir*," "Don't Stop the Music," "Lake Arthur Waltz," "Sundown Playboy Special," "Wafus Two-step," "*La Valse a Gabriel*," "*Chere Bassette*," "Poche Town Special" and an album, "Saturday Night Cajun Music," with ten Cajun tunes on it.

One 45-rpm record was released by Apple Records of London, England, "Saturday Night Special," was used in the movie, "Sister, Sister," in 1988.

Lesa has played at most of the clubs and festivals in Louisiana and Southeast Texas. He performed at the University of Chicago for the Folklife Festival in 1976 and at the World's Fair in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1984.