



Reggie Matte

James Reginald (Reggie) Matte was born in Church Point, Louisiana on August 26, 1954, to George and Ethel Matte.

At the age of 8, Reggie received his first accordion as a Christmas present and learned that night that his grandfather, Thomas Matte, used to play the accordion in local house dances, known in French as “*Les Bals de Maison.*” Reggie then started receiving accordion lessons from his grandfather during Sunday family visits. He also learned to play guitar, harmonica and drums. His early musical influences were Aldus Roger, Iry LeJeune, Lawrence Walker and Belton Richard.

Reggie played his first professional dance job in 1967, at Courville's Lounge in Church Point. Although only 13, he was soon performing with numerous groups in the Church Point area. He eventually became accordionist for the “Church Point Playboys,” a group created by Bee Cormier. Reggie remained with them for 20 years during which he made perhaps his best known recording, “*Une Mouche Dans Mon Couche-Couche,*” written by Floyd Sonnier.

In 1987, Reggie joined the Jambalaya Cajun Band. As of 2008, the group has recorded 6 CDs. One of his most notable composition was the French Music Association's “*Le Cadjin* song of the Year” nominee, “Gone, Gone, Gone.” During his career he has received a number of awards including CFMA “*Le*

*Cadjin*” awards for “Best Accordionist” and “Album of the Year.” He has performed in events in many states and Canada – including performances and workshops in Denmark. Reggie performed on numerous local and national radio and television programs during his long musical career.