



Hadley J. Castille

Born: Leonville, Louisiana, March 3, 1933

Instruments: fiddle, guitar, vocals, songwriter

Best songs: "I Must Not Speak French," "*Maudit Bayou Teche*," "*Faire Whiskie*."

He started playing at 12, professionally at 17 and worked with "The Midnight Ramblers," 1957. He toured locally in Louisiana and Canada since 1981. In 1980 he formed, "The Cajun Grass Band," later "The Louisiana Cajun Band," and "Sharecropper's Cajun band."

Recordings: "Basile Waltz," "The Swamp Fiddler," "Cajun Hop," "Louisiana, the State We're In." "Cajun Grass," "*La Cravate*," "Cajun Swamp Fiddler," "Third Generation," "*La Musique de les Castilles*," "Cajun Christmas," "*L'Esprit de la Louisiane*." "*Quarante Acres et Deux Mules*," "*Hadley J. Castille, Avec son violon Cajun presente les chansons traditional de la Louisiane*," "Hadley Castille, Cajun Fiddling and Singing Now and Tomorrow," "Hadley J. Castille and *Le Cajun Grass Band*, Going Back to Louisiana, *Je Suis Retourner ala Louisiane*," "Hadley J. Castille, Along Bayou Teche," "I Must Not Speak French," "*Beau Geste*."

Awards: 1986-Alpha Zeta Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society Int.; "Untiring Contribution to Cajun Music," St. Landry Parish United Way "Recognition to your music for Opelousas," 1985 – *Ambassadeur Extraordinaire*, 1981 – Paul Hardy and the Louisiana Office of Tourism for promoting Cajun Music in the U.S. And Canada, July 18, 1987 – Hall of masters Award Folk life Center NSU, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 1992-CFMA "*Le Cajun Heritage Award*, 1996-Louisiana Hall of Fame, 2001-Living Legend Award by the Acadian Museum of Erath, Louisiana.

Hadley took to the airwaves on KSLO Radio, Opelousas, Louisiana, in 1951. Listeners immediately recognized that he brought forth a true Cajun music with a distinct sound which has been honed to a fine edge over the years. In Hadley's music there is a blend from fiddle players such as Leo Soileau, Harry Choates, and flair of the fiddlers from the old Bob Wills band along with some of the early entertainers on the Grand Ole Opry.

Mr. Castille died October 25, 2012, at Prompt Succor Facility of Opelousas, Louisiana. His remains are buried in the Belleview Memorial Park, Opelousas, Louisiana.