

CAJUN FRENCH MUSIC ASSOCIATION  
CHICAGO ASSOCIATE CHAPTER

MAY – JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER

As winter proceeds into early spring (it's tough to tell up here in the Midwest) the Chicago CFMA has kept the music going.

In late February, Dorian Gehring organized a Cajun/Zydeco/Swamp Pop evening with a Mardi Gras theme at a great new venue, the Hungry Brain on Chicago's north side. There were several configurations of band members, with good music, dancing and food. We hope to become regulars at the Hungry Brain.

March 19, the Cajun Vagabonds played our monthly dance at the Empty Bottle in Chicago. It's a great chance for our members to dance and socialize while listening to traditional Cajun and Zydeco music.

Every month the Chicago CFMA regularly holds jam sessions at Spyner's Pub or at someone's home. We begin with a slow jam, designed so beginning musicians can get a chance to play in a group. We proceed later with more advanced players, but everyone gets a chance to play and learn. These past few months have brought in some new folks who are learning the music quite well.

Perhaps the highlight of the season so far was the annual Cajun/Creole weekend at Folklore Village in Dodgeville, Wisconsin on March 24 - 26. Although not technically a CFMA event, the music is coordinated by CFMA members Lynne and Charlie Terr. This year we invited Jimmy Breaux and Randy Vidrine from Louisiana who played two great dances with Dorian Gehring (Chicago) and A. J. Srubas (Minneapolis) sitting in. They also taught workshops and jammed with folks all night long. This weekend was well attended by Chicago CFMA folks as well as our CFMA members from Madison, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities.

Moving on, our May monthly dance at the Empty Bottle will feature the Chicago Cajun Aces.

And we have encouraged our folks to send in their CFMA raffle tickets, so one of us can hopefully win the beautiful Richard accordion or one of the other prizes.

Submitted by,

Gene Losey  
Treasurer, Chicago CFMA