

# CROSSROADS

November CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

## Laissez les Bons Temps Rouler!



**Let the Good Times Roll**  
Nestled deeply south in the US state of Louisiana is a French ethnic minority known as the Cajuns. Once an isolated country people, they are now popularly known for their love of music, food, and "joie de vivre" or "joy of living".

The Cajuns originally settled in the Canadian province of Acadia, but were expelled by the English during the French and Indian war of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (The name "Cajun" actually comes from an English mispronunciation of the word "Acadian".) Throughout the years in Louisiana, Cajuns were discriminated against for their differences. Even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cajuns were treated harshly, and children were punished severely for speaking Cajun-French in school. Consequently, much of the culture faded, and the language has nearly disappeared.

Beginning in the 50s, a revival in Cajun culture began, and Cajuns went from estranged to esteemed. Cajun food, known for its seafood and heavy spices, consistently attracts visitors from neighboring states. The more popular recipes include gumbo, a heavy roux-based stew, and boiled crawfish. Boiling crawfish is usually a big event that includes large, spiced pots of crawfish and vegetables that are shared by many people – from an extended family to multiple communities.



Cajun music, particularly Cajun-influenced Zydeco, is unique enough to be a subject of study for ethnomusicologists from all around the world. Zydeco is a music typically played in 2-step or waltz time, using drums, guitar, bass, accordion, fiddle, and washboard, and traditionally sung in Cajun-French.

Although they inhabit only a small corner of the world, it's a small corner that, thanks to the Cajuns, has a lot of love for life!



Story by Michael

## If They had Stayed in Europe

"Bohemian", a term that surfaced in France in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, was first associated with roving Gypsies. As it became more widely used, it referred to people who preferred to lead a non-traditional lifestyle such as artists, writers, and those who had unorthodox or antiestablishment political and social points of view. Many of the greatest artists and writers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in Europe were thought of as "Bohemians". But, it might also be appropriate to think of America's Cajuns as bohemians too! There are many similarities: Cajuns originally came from France; they were very artistic, especially musically; sought an alternative lifestyle, and loved life! Had they remained in France, perhaps many of them would be recognized today among the greatest artists of that era.

## Does this Count as Ethnic Songwriting?

Is this a modern trend in ethnicity? The latest pop music craze in China features songs about stock investments! It started on the Internet, as so much does these days. With lyrics (after translation) such as: "It's not interesting unless their value has doubled", or "It's really fun to make profits from stocks I bought on a whim", we are left to ponder the evolution of modern society! Oh, for some good old fashioned 2-step Zydeco music!

Colored words are in the glossary on page 2

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?... Try our *lessons on the Internet!* It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *on-line!* Call for details: **089 9217595**

### **NET SITE OF THE MONTH:**

For some delicious Cajun recipes, go to:

<http://www.experienceneworleans.com/recipes.html>

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** Well, we had another successful “Performance Night” this month. As it was a long weekend, some students could not make it, but those who did come, put on a great show! Congratulations to all performers. The most gratifying thing I am noticing each time you perform is the improving level of English – not just during your performances, but also at the party afterwards!

**Junko Says:** I’d like to express our thanks to Adrienne for doing a great job teaching our Saturday and Wednesday students, as well as our piano students! I know they will all miss you, but we also know that family comes first. Crossroads, both students and staff, wish you the best and we all hope you take great care of yourself, as well as your family!



**Michael Says:** I was out swimming in the ocean recently with a couple of friends. Viewed from the beach, the water looked pretty calm, with only small waves here and there. The swim was pretty relaxing at first, but soon I realized I was moving faster and faster by the coral and seaweed below me. I was caught in a current heading out to sea! I started to swim against it, but it was too strong. I grabbed a large rock as I passed by, but it flipped over, revealing a hiding shrimp. So I began to turn myself to swim with the current, but angled towards shore, when I came face to face with a squid the size of my forearm. It was very beautiful.

**Iain Says:** What a great Performance Night. Every term the quality of the performances goes up. I hope more students can come and watch them next term. Those of you that couldn’t make it wouldn’t believe the quality of our student’s presentations. They must be seen to be believed! I also want to bid farewell to Adrienne. I will miss chatting with you on Saturdays. Please come back and “bother” us anytime you like!



**Adrienne Says:** It’s hard to say this, but I won’t be working at Crossroads anymore. I have to spend more time with my family on Weekends. My second son is studying for university exams, and my mother will come to Japan this spring. I will miss all of you, but if you see me walking around Okaido, wearing very gaudy clothes, please say “hello”!

**Greg Says:** The recent price hikes in oil prices is starting to really annoy me. I bought my airline tickets for Australia a few months back but because of the increases in oil prices, the airlines are constantly passing on the increased costs to the customers. Even though I have paid the money and have the tickets at home, the airlines want me to pay even more money on top to cover the oil price increases. Are they kidding or what???? I have already paid but they want me to pay more.



## Glossary

(These words are in color in the story on page 1)

<b>ethnic</b> 人種の	<b>isolated</b> 孤立した	<b>expelled</b> 追放された	<b>harshly</b> 無情に
<b>severely</b> きびしく	<b>consistently</b> 一貫して	<b>stew</b> シチュー	<b>roving</b> 放浪する
<b>unorthodox</b> 非伝統的な	<b>appropriate</b> 適切で(ある)	<b>ponder</b> 熟考する	

Everyone's invited to our **Christmas Party** – 16/12/07 start: 6:30pm.  
Bring along you favourite food and drinks and invite all your friends!

# Notice Board

## SCENES FROM PERFORMANCE NIGHT 24/11/07



### クロスローズの好きなコースで英語を学ぶ。

#### "GENERAL (ジェネラル) コース

英語+実践

60分 x 2回 / 週:

1学期-4ヶ月毎にレベルが上がる  
クロスローズのメインプログラム

90分 x 1回 / 週:

忙しい方のための週1レッスン

プライベート(個人)

月2回からレッスン回数自由選択

セミプライベート(セミ個人):

月3回からレッスン回数自由選択

**クロスローズで学べるその他の外国語**

フランス語 - スペイン語 - ドイツ語 - イタリア語 - ロシア語 - 中国語 - 韓国語



#### COSMOPOLITAN (コスモポリタン) コース

英語+実技、だから誰でも分かる、自然に上達する。

英語でギターを習う

英語で歌う

英語で料理

英語でマジック

ピアノ

英語劇

ヨガ

#### NET (ネット) レッスン

グループOR プライベート



#### KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

グループOR プライベート



#### MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)

グループOR プライ



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