



Unit VI: Louisiana's Musical Landscape

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Zydeco Zydeco

SOME INSTRUMENTS OF ZYDECO :

THE FROTTOIR & SPOONS



THE DRUMS

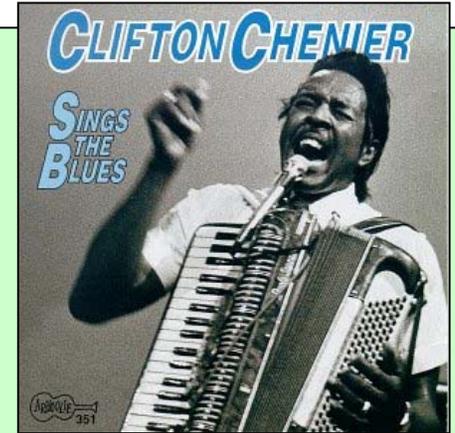
THE ACCORDION



Zydeco (pronounced **ZY-duh-coe**) the dance music of southwest Louisiana's black Creoles. Stylistically, it is a rich hybrid, with a core of Afro-Caribbean rhythms and folk roots, blues, and Cajun music (zydeco's white counterpart), along with a wealth of other elements. These vary widely from band to band and may include rock, country, R & B, reggae, rap and hip-hop. Traditionally, zydeco is sung in French, and its lyrics are often improvised. It is absolutely not intended for passive listening. Zydeco's dominant instrument is the accordion, while its signature percussive instrument is the *frottoir* or rub board.

CLIFTON CHENIER (1925 - 1987)

Grammy Award winner Clifton Chenier was a legendary zydeco musician. He was an accordionist, and sang in Creole French. Chenier was also the recipient of the National Heritage Fellowship.



Creole musicians perform their music. Featured are Canray Fontenot on fiddle, and "Bois Sec" Ardoin.



Claude Duffy and His Fire Band at the Friendly Club in Cecilia, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish.

