



Feb. 24, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LISA WOSKE
Cal Poly Arts
(805) 756-7110

Cajun Zydeco Master Geno Delafose Coming to Cal Poly March 15

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA -- A PBS-Smithsonian television documentary described Geno Delafose as "the standard-bearer for traditional Zydeco... and he has proved himself one of the most versatile musicians in South Louisiana."

On Tuesday, March 15 at 8 p.m. in the Spanos Theatre, Cal Poly Arts presents Geno Delafose and French Rockin' Boogie for an evening of spicy two-steps, waltzes, and their own brand of R&B classics.

Known as the "keeper of the flame" for the traditional folk music of Southwest Louisiana, Delafose will deliver surging, syncopated good-time music straight out of the bayou dancehall.

He will share the stage with his smokin' hot French Rockin' Boogie band, featuring John Paul Esprite (bass guitar, vocals), Wilfred Pierre (washboard, vocals), Gerard Delafose (drums, vocals), and Charles Ardoin (lead guitar).

Delafose, called "the young hope of Zydeco" by the Boston Herald, is a "squeeze-box triple threat" – playing the diatonic, triple row, and piano accordions.

Delafose was born into a family of Zydeco musicians; his father was zydeco legend John Delafose. The elder Delafose was key in re-launching the current upsurge of Zydeco and the son is poised to crossover Zydeco to a wider country music audience with his charismatic cowboy spirit and lively presentation.

With French Rockin' Boogie, Geno Delafose performs in many of the same dancehalls and churches that he visited as a child in his father's group.

Delafose fuses his Creole roots and modern voice through his multi-accordion attack, playing the single-row and triple-row diatonic

button accordions for more traditional "French style" tunes and changes to piano accordion for pounding out contemporary Zydeco.

The performers know how to reach a diverse audience, with a wide repertoire ranging from traditional Zydeco gems with French lyrics to innovative reinterpretations of country standards. Delafose also has written some original songs that are featured in his concerts and on his recordings.

"You're either going to love it or you're gonna hate it," Geno Delafose explained in a recent radio interview regarding listeners' maiden reaction to Zydeco. "And if you like it, it's going to be with you forever."

In addition to being an in-demand touring artist, Delafose also lives the life of a true cowboy. He relies on his traditional Creole sensibility for guidance in music and divides his time between performing and operating his Double D Ranch outside of Eunice, deep in Southwest Louisiana's bayou country, where he breeds cattle and raises quarter horses.

Tickets for the performance are \$22 & \$28, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

Sponsored by John and Deborah Spatafore and by KCBX 90.1 FM.

For audio and video samples of Cal Poly Arts events, visit www.calpolyarts.org.

- 30 -