MUSIC STREET
NEW ORLEANS

A Guide to 200
Jazz, Rock and
Rhythm & Blues Sites

Kevin J. Bozant

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A Crescent City Lexicon

**Crescent City Soldiers:**
Military Monuments of New Orleans

**Music Street New Orleans:**
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INTRODUCTION

Join the “second line” with local author Kevin J. Bozant as he takes you on a neighborhood tour of over 200 music sculptures, markers, parks, murals, historic sites, statues, museums, festivals, plaques and cultural references celebrating the Jazz, Rock and Rhythm & Blues heritage of New Orleans.

At any moment in time, a musician in the Crescent City is rehearsing with the Marching 100 in the 7th Ward, playing the B-3 in Gert Town, harmonizing in Zion City, practicing piano at SUNO, jazzing it up at Preservation Hall, glorifying in a Mid-City choir, blowing a horn on Bourbon Street, marching in a Tremé brass band, second lining in a jazz funeral, conducting an orchestra for Broadway South or jamming on Frenchmen Street.

Music isn’t just a way of life in New Orleans.

Music IS life in New Orleans.

In 1987, the United States Congress designated jazz “a rare and valuable national American treasure to which we should devote our attention, support and resources to make certain it is preserved, understood and promulgated.” On October 31, 1994, The National Park Service (NPS) established the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park focused on the early culture of traditional jazz. Together with the New Orleans Jazz Commission, the NPS created a series of tour maps of historic sites relating to the early history of jazz in the Crescent City. Over 60 of these sites are included here.

In 2002, The Preservation Resource Center (PRC) and the New Orleans Jazz Commission, launched the Jazz Plaque Program in an effort to identify and preserve many of the residences of local musicians associated with jazz. More than 35 of these sites are included in this book.

In New Orleans ...
Every street is Music Street.
MARDI GRAS LOUNGE
333 Bourbon Street - French Quarter

This club, known as Sid Davilla's Mardi Gras Lounge, featured Lizzie Miles as well as Freddie Kohlman’s band and others. Owner and clarinetist Sid Davilla usually sat in with the band on the last set. NPS

MARTIN'S SALOON
621 Iberville Street - French Quarter

This bar, operated by Albert J. and Emile Martin, was strategically located at the corner of Exchange Alley and was a hangout for musicians waiting for calls for jobs. Jack Laine and others recruited from those in the bar and in the street. The interior and exterior of this building are little changed from their days as Martin's. NPS

MANUEL JOHN MELLO
1025 Bartholomew Street - Bywater

Cornetist and bandleader, Manuel John Mello (1888-1961) lived at 1025 Bartholomew Street from 1917 until 1961. He played with Weinmunson’s Band, Johnny Fischer's Band, Fischer’s Military Band and was the leader of one of Jack Laine’s Reliance Brass Band units. He later led his own Mello’s Original Jazz Band. He worked most of his life as a sugar maker and spent a great deal of his time in Oriente Providence in Cuba. PRC
Singer, Elizabeth Mary Landreaux, aka Lizzie Miles (1895-1963) lived at 1508 Pauger Street (formerly Bourbon Street) in 1896. Her specialty was singing in both English and in a New Orleans Creole French patois. She sang in churches, with “King” Oliver, “Kid” Ory and Bunk Johnson before traveling with circus shows. She later recorded with “Jelly Roll” Morton and Clarence Williams. During the 1940s through the 1960s she sang or recorded with a diverse groups of musicians including Frank Federico, Paul Barbarin, Sharkey Bonano, George Lewis, Tony Almerico, Freddie Kohlman, Red Camp and Bob Scobey. PRC
MILNEBURG

The area along the lakefront at the end of Elysian Fields was called Milneburg for former resident and businessman, Alexander Milne. Once called Old Lake End, it was a resort area important in the early history of jazz. Milneburg eventually became the site of the Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park. It was historically mispronounced (MIL en berg) resulting in a famous jazz tune titled, “Milenburg Joys.”
ALLISON MONTANA
“Chief Of Chiefs”

BIG CHIEF “TOOTIE” MONTANA
Yellow Pocahontas “Chief of Chiefs”
Roots of Music Cultural Garden
N. Rampart and St. Ann Streets - Tremé
Sheleen Jones-Adenle - 2010

ALLISON “BIG CHIEF TOOTIE” MONTANA
DECEMBER 16, 1922 - JUNE 27, 2005
YELLOW POCAHONTAS MARDI GRAS INDIAN TRIBE / “CHIEF OF CHIEFS”
A NEW ORLEANS CULTURAL ICON AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
MASTER CRAFTSMAN IN THE BUILDING TRADE, BIG CHIEF MONTANA
MASKED AS A MARDI GRAS INDIAN FOR OVER 50 YEARS. HE DIED IN
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS DEFENDING THE MARDI GRAS INDIAN
TRADITION.

SCULPTOR: SHELEEN JONES-ADENLE
DEDICATED APRIL, 2010
THIS SCULPTURE WAS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY
THE EDWARD WISNER DONATION
The Monteleone was designed in 1908 by architects Toledano & Wogan. Featured artists included a young Liberace, Louis Prima and the Dukes of Dixieland on the roof. The Monteleone boasts almost a century of music events and headliners.

Morris Music’s last and longest location was in this fine building at 164 S. Rampart Street at Common. It was a meeting place for musicians. Louis Armstrong visited his boyhood friend Morris Karnofsky and all of his musician buddies here on his many return trips to the city.
The home of “Jelly Roll” Morton on Frenchmen Street appears to be abandoned. There is no plaque signifying the importance of this jazz-related structure save a poignant framed photo of Morton sitting in the window.
SEVENTH WARD MUSICIANS

The Seventh Ward is opposite Esplanade Avenue from the Sixth Ward and, like those neighborhoods, was a predominantly Creole of Color residential area. The list of former residents from the Seventh Ward is impressive and includes Paul Barbarin, Barney Bigard, Lizzie Miles, “Jelly Roll” Morton, Manuel Perez, Buddy Petit, Omer Simeon and Lorenzo Tio Jr. Today, the Seventh Ward retains much of its historic appearance. NPS

Pianist, bandleader and composer, “Jelly Roll” Morton (1890-1940) lived at 1443 Frenchmen Street in the 7th Ward of New Orleans. He was probably born in Mississippi and his family moved here when he was very young. He began playing in bars and houses of prostitution when he was about ten years of age. He was also known at Ferdinand Joseph LaMenthe or LaMothe. His business card declared that he was the “originator of jazz.”
Designed in 1929 in the Italian Renaissance style by architects Favrot & Livaudais, the Municipal Auditorium is a large arena-style facility that can be divided into two separate theaters. Innumerable events with jazz have taken place here over the years including about half of Louis Armstrong’s return-trip performances. NPS
NEW ORLEANS MUSICAL LEGENDS PARK
Edison Park - 311 Bourbon Street - French Quarter

This small park tucked away in the 300 block of Bourbon Street was developed in 2007 by the New Orleans Musical Legends Foundation. The park features life size statues of many New Orleans musicians such as Fats Domino, Pete Fountain, Louis Prima, Al Hirt, Ronnie Kole, Chris Owens, Irma Thomas and Allen Toussaint.
MUSICIANS' TOMB
Barbarin Family Tomb
St. Louis Cemetery #1
Basin and St Louis Streets - Tremé

There are actually two Barbarin family tombs in New Orleans cemeteries. This one in St. Louis Cemetery #1 is also known as the New Orleans Musicians' Tomb. It was originally used by the Sacred Union Society in the 19th Century. The Barbarin family has made this tomb available for all New Orleans musicians, rich and poor. The first such burial here was that of singer Lloyd Washington of the Ink Spots in 2004.

Jazz drummer Paul Barbarin’s tomb can be found in St. Louis Cemetery #2, which is also the resting place for Danny Barker and his wife, Louisa “Blue Lu” Barker.

MUSICIAN'S UNION HALL
Exchange Alley - French Quarter

Over the years, the Musicians Mutual Protection Union, A. F. of M. Local 174, had several locations on this block, including 132, 134 and 116 Exchange. An early leadership struggle between bandleaders George De Droit and William Braun resulted in rival groups trying to occupy the same headquarters. NPS
MUSICIANS’ VILLAGE
Ellis Marsalis Center for Music
Musicians’ Village Park
1901 Bartholomew Street - Upper 9th Ward

Musicians’ Village is a post-Katrina cultural initiative created to replace flood damaged housing in a section of the Upper Ninth Ward. The village covers an area bounded by North Roman, Alvar and North Johnson Streets, including a section of Bartholomew Street.

The centerpiece of Musicians’ Village is The Ellis Marsalis Center for Music. The building houses 17,000 square feet of education and performance space and is a gathering place for the community. The goal of the Center is to channel the talents of the residents of Musicians’ Village, providing a vital resource for sustaining the music culture of New Orleans.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kevin J. Bozant was born in the Upper 9th Ward of New Orleans – as luck would have it – just a few blocks from Huerstel’s Bar and Little Pete’s Seafood Restaurant. He is a local author, photographer and digital graphic designer for his publishing company, Po-Boy Press – New Orleans.

His professional experience includes Warner Brothers, CW and ABC television affiliates. Kevin specialized in sales, marketing, promotional graphics and special events coordination. He eventually became senior graphic designer for the news, sports and weather departments. He was font operator for fifteen seasons of Friday Night Football as well as Saints Sideline with Ed Daniels. Kevin provided technical assistance on location shoots for Real New Orleans with Ronnie Virgets, Crescent City Country with Kim Carson, co-produced New Orleans after Midnight with Bernie Cyrus and developed and co-produced The Southern Garden for Vitascope Television. He also served as studio graphics manager and question writer for Brandon Tartikoff’s popular New Orleans trivia game show N.O. It Alls.

Kevin showcased his warped opinion of local politics and culture as writer and editor of the “Crescent City Crier” a political cartoon published by Gambit Weekly. He is author and editor of Port & Burgundy 1840-1990: A Pictorial History covering 150 years of St. Paul German Lutheran Church and Faubourg Marigny; Quaint Essential New Orleans: A Crescent City Lexicon; African American New Orleans: a Guide to 100 Civil Rights, Culture and Jazz Sites; Crescent City Soldiers: Military Monuments of New Orleans as well as Music Street New Orleans: A Guide to 200 Jazz, Rock and Rhythm & Blues Sites.

Kevin’s favorite cultural experience was serving as personal assistant to Dr. Momus Alexander Morgus for his Halloween appearances at the Audubon Zoo.

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