

Top 5 Mardi Gras Songs of All Time

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Carnival Time

Al Johnson

While it didn't catch on when first introduced in 1960, today it's a standard. That's Mac Rebennack (Dr. John) on the piano.

Sample lyric:

Claiborne Street is a-rockin'
From-a one side to the other
The joints are jammin', packin'
And I'm about to smother

All because it's Carnival Ti-i-ime
Whoa, it's Carnival Time
Oh well, it's Carnival Time
And everybody's havin' fun

Go To The Mardi Gras

Professor Longhair

Some say this the most popular Carnival record ever made. Fats Domino recorded it in 1956. We love the whistling.

Sample lyric:

While you stroll in New Orleans
You ought to go see the Mardi Gras
If you go to New Orleans
You ought to go see the Mardi Gras
When you see the Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras Mambo

The Hawketts

This was the only record for high school R&B band, but it was a good one!

Sample lyric:

Down in New Orleans
Where the blues was born
It takes a cool cat to blow a horn
On LaSalle and Rampart Street
The combo's there with a mambo beat

The Mardi Gras mambo, mambo, mambo
Party Gras mambo, mambo, mambo
Mardi Gras mambo, ooh
Down in New Orleans
Somebody'll tell you what's Carnival for

Jock-A-Mo

Sugar Boy Crawford & the Cane Cutters

In 1983, Crawford said, "When the [Indian] tribes ran up on each other they shouted 'Jock-a-mo fee na na' and 'Iko Iko.'" I didn't have in mind to do a Carnival record—just wanted to record a good song."

Sample lyric:

Iko, iko iko iko an de
Jock-a-mo fee no ah na nay
Jock-a-mo fee na ne

My spyboy met your spyboy
Sittin' by the fire
My spyboy told your spyboy:
I'm gonna set your flag on fire
Talkin' 'bout Hey now, hey now

Iko iko an de
Jock-a-mo fee no ah na nay
Jock-a-mo fee na ne

Hey Pocky A-Way

The Meters

It's been said that the infectious "Hey Pocky A-Way" captures the bohemian essence of Mardi Gras. The Grateful Dead loved it.

Sample lyric:

Live a boy with a heart of steel
He can't move it now
But his sisters sure will
Feel good music
I've been told
Good for the body
And it's good for your soul
You can do it now

Hey hey hey hey pocky a-way

I'm back grooving
Right in the car
It don't make no difference where you are
Feel good music
In your soul
Make your body
Do the slow boogie roll

