

LIL' NATHAN **& THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS**

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

WWW.NATHANWILLIAMSJR.COM





BIO

With nearly two decades in the music industry, Lil Nathan—better known as Lil Nate—has taken zydeco far beyond its traditional roots. His blend of zydeco, R&B, swing out, hip hop, and Afro Pop has produced dancefloor favorites like “L’argent,” “Go Hard or Go Home,” “Zydeco Diva,” and “Cowgirl Swagg.” Fans call his music fresh gumbo. Critics say he’s strayed too far from tradition. But Nate sees it differently.

“If I stay stuck in history, I’m just doing what somebody else was doing when they were innovators,” he says. “Clifton (Chenier) was a fusion artist. Even his band was infused with popular genres. That’s really the pattern I’m following.” From his start as a two-year-old on stage with his father, Nathan Williams Sr. of Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas, Nate has built his own lane. He’s performed at the Bayou Classic halftime show before 50,000 fans, the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, and even landed a spotlight on CBS’s 60 Minutes.

Along the way, he’s collaborated with stars like New Edition, Dru Hill, Cupid, Juvenile, and Kevin Gates, while releasing 17 albums that cross genres and experiment with Afro Pop. Education is just as important—Nate earned degrees in Jazz Studies and Jazz Performance from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and today teaches budding accordionists through the school’s traditional music program.

He and his brother Naylan also run Cha Cha Studios, where Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas recorded their Grammy-nominated album *Lucky Man*. But Nate’s vision reaches further.

“I’ve got six projects ready to go over the next five to six years. My end goal is to open a music school for kids and keep building Cha Cha Records. I never hit the road like my daddy and the other heavy hitters. That might be next—doing prestige venues that broaden the horizon for zydeco.” Lil Nate isn’t running from tradition—he’s expanding it. And in doing so, he’s carving out his place in zydeco history.

WWW.NATHANWILLIAMSJR.COM





THE BAND



Nathan Williams, Jr.
Accordion & Lead Vocals



Isiah Williams
Rubboard & Background Vocals



Naylan Williams
Keyboard, Background Vocals,
Music Director, Sound Tech



Isaiah Savoy
Guitar



Kendrick Chambers
Drums & Perc Pads



Jeston Andrews
Guitar



Torres Harris
Bass



Javin Landry
Vocalist, Equipment Manager, Driver



Michael Brent
Equipment Manager

MORE
BAND
INFO
COMING
SOON



FAMILY



Harry "Big Daddy" Hypolite
R.I.P.



Sid "El Sid O's" Williams, Jr.
R.I.P.



Nathan Williams Sr.
GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST



Dennis Paul Williams
GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST



Nathan Williams, Jr.
GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST



Isiah Williams



Naylan Williams
GRAMMY NOMINATED ARTIST



PRESS CLIPPINGS & FEATURES

MEMBER STORY

COVER STORY *PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS*

Travis Matte, Lil Nate stir excitement at the Crawfish Festival

Music Association. Matte still gives a little song or two during his performances, drawing the festival's drums and his a young fan's crowd.

BREAUX BRIDGE CRAWFISH FESTIVAL BAND LINEUP

FRIDAY

12:00-1:00 p.m. **Stardust**
1:00-2:00 p.m. **Stardust**
2:00-3:00 p.m. **Stardust**
3:00-4:00 p.m. **Stardust**
4:00-5:00 p.m. **Stardust**
5:00-6:00 p.m. **Stardust**
6:00-7:00 p.m. **Stardust**
7:00-8:00 p.m. **Stardust**
8:00-9:00 p.m. **Stardust**
9:00-10:00 p.m. **Stardust**
10:00-11:00 p.m. **Stardust**
11:00-12:00 a.m. **Stardust**

Top Events USA, a website that tracks good times around the country, has named the Breunx Bridge Crawfish Festival as one of Louisiana's top 10 events.

For the past six years, Mattie and the Kingstonians have been the closing band in the festival's Saturday night, high-energy, overtime crowd of thousands nearly spilling onto the stage as they dance and sing along with the band every song.

Mattie said his Crowded House Fest crowd turns a Caya rumba dance into a reggae concert.

"It's always a jam-packed crowd," said Mattie. "We come out there to have a good time and cut up a little more of a

WANT TO GO?

- **What:** Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival 2013
- **Where:** Park Handy, Breaux Bridge
- **Admission:** \$5 Friday and Sunday, \$10 Saturday, \$15 for a three-day pass
- **Information:** breauxfest.com

times at the last minute.
"But they're always willing to play. It's a beautiful thing."
In their ninth year, M... and the Kingpins continue to entertain crowds throughout Louisiana with their trademark mix of Cajun, zydeco and party music.

that includes the hit "Floor," is the latest of the band's eight CDs.

Mattie expects to release another Kumbia CD this year. But in a few weeks, he'll go back to roots with "Old Time Sonas," a collection of traditional Cajon classics.

Before Mattie's the recording of

ance of
Cajun,
pop," said
pick up the
m, some-

BREAUX DRUM FESTIVAL BAND LINE
School of Music Students
Crawfish Stage

FRIDAY
Brown Bridge Hunt
 • 5:11 p.m. — Ray Adkins
Crawfish Boats
 • 5:30-7:30 p.m. — High Performance
 • 7:45-9:45 p.m. — Florida Turners and the Hub City Artists
 • 10 p.m. midnight — Kevin Stormer and the Ocean Playboys
Festival Stage
 • 5:15-7 p.m. — Free Live Boys
 • 7:35-9:15 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 9:30-11 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 5:10-7:30 p.m. — Carol Egan and Carol Egan
 • 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. — Forest Hand Band
 • 12:30-2 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 2:15-4 p.m. — Greg Stormer and the Delta Kings
Festival Stage
 • 10:30-12 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 12:15-1:45 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 1:45-3 p.m. — Jambalaya
 • 3 p.m. — Jambalaya

SATURDAY
Brewers Bridge Tour
 • 7:30-10 p.m. — Hunt-Foxler
Cajon Band
 • 10:11 a.m. — Elia Varicor
 • 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. — Andre
 • 1:30-3 p.m. — Paul Dargle and
 • 3:30-5:15 p.m. — Keith Frank
 • 5:30-8:30 p.m. — Yzera Family

• 5:30-7:30 p.m. — Damon Tree
 • 7:45-9:45 p.m. — Jamie Bergeron
 and the Gypsy's Colors
 • 10 p.m. midnight — Nix & Bear

Festival Stage
 • 10:15-11:45 a.m. — T'bande
 • 12-1:30 p.m. — House Family
 Band
 • 1:45-3:15 p.m. — Nathan
 Williams and the Zephyr Cha
 Orchestra
 • 3:30-5 p.m. — Steve Wiley and
 the

the closer the festival
Sunday. He said the
like a family reunion.
are crowded, so I ad-
at a lot of it there. But
family on my mom's side
Brewaux Bridge. Do it's
tival event.
get to play early, and a
my family members
out from Brewaux
and Cecilia. We sh-
ood time."

24 A.16 S.



WHEN ZYDECO and R&B MEET

Lil' Nathan joins
other music stars
at home

By Anastasia Semian
anastasia@theashfordpress.com

When rydcoo artist LIP No. 1 performs at the Lafayette Music Festival Saturday, he isn't just doing it so his local fans can enjoy his music.

"It's really an accompaniment, it feels like it's going to help the symphonies just to be a part of that concert," said Lil' Nathun, whose real name is Nathan Williams Jr.

"It's going to open doors for a lot of our artists. I'm excited for symphonies to be a part of something like this in the area."

Lil' Nathun will share the stage with big names in R&B, Funk, Soul, R. K. In Vogue, After 7 and Hands of Soul (which includes Bobby Brown, Jimmy Gil and Ralph Tresvant) are the lineup.

zydeco music on



LE Nite and the System by [illegible]
Solar's System and Blue Club [illegible]

Lil Mathan

[illegible]

10th Annual
NEB
HERITAGE DAY
"Save the Memories"
presented by

Saturday
March 8, 2014
10:00am - 5:00pm
BARNES CIVIC ARENA
1000 Barnes Blvd., Fort Collins, CO 98501
More information: www.BPCCA.com | (970) 221-6696
Proceeds will benefit Barnes Children's Center, Barnes Children's Hospital, Barnes Children's Foundation

Family Tradition
Family, Friends & Fun !!
Guests will enjoy...

Heritage Day 2008

ADMISSION
Adult \$10 Student \$5/12 and Under \$3
More information: www.BPCCA.com | (970) 221-6696
Proceeds will benefit Barnes Children's Center, Barnes Children's Hospital, Barnes Children's Foundation



LIL NATE: I'VE TAKEN ZYDECO PLACES IT HADN'T BEEN

LIFE IS GOOD FOR LIL NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS. A LIVE DVD IS IN THE WORKS FROM THE BAND'S RECENT RETURN TO FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LOUISIANE.

THE BIG TIMERS OPENED FOR R&B SINGER JOHNNY GILL AT CYPRESS BAYOU CASINO IN CHARENTON. THE BAND FOLLOWED THEIR NEW ORLEANS JAZZ AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL SHOW WITH A ROCK 'N' BOWL SET WITH CHRIS ARDOIN AND THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF BEAU JOCQUE'S ZYDECO HI-ROLLERS.

THOSE SWEET GIGS STILL PALE IN COMPARISON TO THE BIG TIMERS' 2013 SUPERDOME EVENT – A HALFTIME SHOW WITH THE GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND AT THE ANNUAL BAYOU CLASSIC.

"IT'S BEEN GREAT," SAID LIL NATE, AKA NATHAN WILLIAMS JR. OF LAFAYETTE. "I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE, WORK WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE. I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO TAKE ZYDECO IN A FEW PLACES IT HADN'T BEEN. I'VE ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO CREATE A CATALOG OF MUSIC WHERE PEOPLE IDENTIFY ME AS THE ARTIST. THAT'S PRETTY COOL. IT'S REALLY STARTING TO DEVELOP MORE AND MORE INTO LIL NATHAN.

"IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS, I'VE BEEN INFLUENCED BY A LOT OF ARTISTS. IT'S STARTING TO BE WHERE PEOPLE ARE KNOWING ME FOR A CERTAIN SOUND."

LIL NATE ADDS TO HIS MEMORIES AND RESUME WHEN HE RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN ALIVE! AT 6 P.M. FRIDAY AT PARC SANS SOUCI. CONCESSIONS, WHICH HELP KEEP DTA! FREE, BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.

LIL NATE CONTINUES TO BUILD A LEGACY THAT STARTED 13 YEARS AGO. FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIS FATHER, LEADER OF NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO CHACHAS, HE RELEASED HIS FIRST CD AS A 14-YEAR-OLD FRESHMAN AT NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL.

SEVEN CDS LATER, LIL NATE REIGNS AS ONE OF THE TOP ATTRACTIONS ON THE ZYDECO CIRCUIT. HE HOLDS A DEGREE IN JAZZ STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE.

ALONG THE WAY, HE'S PLAYED GIGS AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN ORLANDO, FLA. AND THE RONALD REAGAN BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC.

"IT'S GETTING BETTER AND BETTER," SAID LIL NATE. "ONCE YOU START GETTING KNOWN, IT TAKES YOU TO DIFFERENT PLACES. I'M WORKING ON A CRUISE FOR NEXT YEAR.

"BUT I DON'T TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I'M EXCITED ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN. EVEN IF I COULDN'T PLAY ZYDECO ANYMORE, I'M STILL EXCITED ABOUT WHERE I'VE BEEN WITH THE MUSIC."

LIL NATE CONTINUES TO SERVE AS AN INSTRUCTOR IN UL'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM, PART OF THE DR. TOMMY COMEAUX ENDOWED CHAIR IN TRADITIONAL MUSIC. HE TRAINS STUDENTS IN THE ZYDECO ENSEMBLE, WHICH FINISHES EACH SEMESTER WITH A DANCE SHOWCASING THEIR SKILLS.

THE UNIVERSITY WORK HELPS HIM KEEP ALIVE HIS GOAL OF BECOMING A MUSIC AND VOCALS TEACHER. "I LOVE TEACHING. IT KEEPS ME DETERMINED TO FINISH MY QUEST ON BEING A TEACHER. IT KEEPS ME IN THAT CLASSROOM SETTING. I GET A CHANCE TO STILL BE A PART OF MY ALMA MATER AND TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT WHAT I DO. THEY PORTRAY IT PRETTY WELL.





DANCING IN THE RAIN WITH LIL' NATHAN & THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS AT NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST

ALL DAY, I'D BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO LIL' NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO BIG TIMERS' CLOSE-OUT SET ON FRIDAY (APRIL 24) AT NEW ORLEANS JAZZ FEST'S SHERATON FAIS DO-DO STAGE. JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, LIL' NATHAN'S DAD, NATHAN WILLIAMS, HAD THE FLOORBOARDS SHAKING AT ROCK 'N' BOWL, WITH HIS BAND, NATHAN AND THE ZYDECO CHA CHAS. I WAS READY TO SEE WHAT THE HEIR APPARENT COULD DO. THEN THE WIND KICKED UP. IN THE DISTANCE, LIGHTNING STARTED CRACKING LIKE STROBE LIGHTS. A JAZZ FEST STAFFER TOOK THE MIC. IT WAS 5:38 P.M. THE STAGE WOULD SHUT DOWN AT 6 (EXACTLY THE TIME LIL' NATHAN'S SET WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN.) THE UNSPOKEN MESSAGE – WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS STILL DOING HERE? IT'S ABOUT TO POUR!

COMING ON EARLY, AND WITH A LITTLE MORE THAN 20 MINUTES TO PLAY WITH, LIL' NATHAN GOT RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS. ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE BAND – WASHBOARDS, KEYBOARDS, GUITARS, DRUMS – HE RAN THROUGH WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A HALF-DOZEN SONGS WITHOUT COMING UP FOR AIR. NO SMALL TALK, NO "HELLO JAZZ FEST." JUST STRAIGHT UP HIP-HOP-TINGED ZYDECO DANCE MUSIC – ACCORDION JAMMING, GUITARS WAILING.

LIL' NATHAN IS NATHAN WILLIAMS JR. THOUGH HE'S CERTAINLY BLESSED WITH GREAT MUSICAL DNA, HE HASN'T RESTED ON HIS FAMILY'S LAURELS. HIS FIRST CD, "ZYDECO BALLIN'," CAME OUT IN 2002, WHEN HE WAS JUST 14. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE, HE MAJORED IN JAZZ STUDIES AND MUSIC MEDIA, AND SINCE GRADUATION, HE HAS WORKED HARD TO CREATE A SOUND THAT'S ALL HIS OWN.

ON FRIDAY, A HALF-DOZEN OTHER STALWART FANS GATHERED WITH ME AT THE BARRICADES, TWO-STEPPING IN MUDDY RAIN BOOTS. THE CLOUDS BEGAN TO LEAK FAT DROPS, CREATING A POLKA-DOT PATTERN IN THE SANDY FIELD.

AN OLDER GENTLEMAN IN AN ALOHA SHIRT AND RAIN-SPECKLED EYEGLASSES ASKED ME TO DANCE. WE SWUNG AROUND WITH AN APOCALYPTIC JOY AS MY DAMP SKIRT TWIRLED AROUND MY LEGS. ON STAGE, LIL' NATE (THAT'S WHAT HIS WEBSITE CALLS HIM) WAS STILL WORKING IT HARD, THOUGH HIS EYEBROWS ARCHED DRAMATICALLY WHEN THE LIGHTNING BEGAN TO STRIKE WITH A MORE WORRISOME FREQUENCY.



AND THEN, JUST LIKE THAT, THE PLUG WAS METAPHORICALLY PLUGGED. A JAZZ FEST STAFFER STOOD IN THE WINGS SIGNALING FOR A WRAP. LIL' NATHAN GAVE HIS "THANK YOU JAZZ FEST, GOOD NIGHT." AND THE BAND PLAYED THEIR FINAL CORDS. IT WAS BRIEF BUT BLISSFUL – A JAZZ FEST MEMORY, WELL WORTH GETTING WET.

The Times-Picayune
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

WWW.NATHANWILLIAMSJR.COM



CONTACT

BOOKINGS

To book Lil' Nathan & The Zydeco Big Timers is to experience Louisiana culture at a high level. Thanks for inquiring! DO IT!

Management: 337-344-3910

Fax: 337-234-3960

Weekly Performance Hotline: 337-901-2917

Email: lilnathan_4@hotmail.com



WWW.NATHANWILLIAMSJR.COM

