



The Southwest LA Cajun Music Jam and the Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission

Proudly Presents

The 15th Annual Cajun Squeezebox Shootout

The **Cajun Squeezebox Shootout** is held each year on the Saturday before Mardi Gras. This year it will be held on **Saturday, March 1, 2025**, at the historic Strand Theatre, located at 432 N. Main Street in beautiful downtown Jennings, Louisiana. The competition starts promptly at 11:30 am. Doors will be open at 10:30 am. We are gearing up to have a great **Cajun Squeezebox Shootout** again this year! Judging by the positive responses we're getting from the public and our Cajun music friends and family, this year's contest promises to be fun and exciting for everyone involved. Our emcee for the event will be Ray Landry, from Lafayette, LA.

CONTEST DETAILS AND RULES:

The Shootout is an annual musical performance contest open to Cajun Style (single-row diatonic) accordion players of all ages and abilities. The Shootout will be judged by a panel of three judges selected from the Cajun music genre, with all of them being accomplished Cajun Musicians in their own right.

The contest is free to enter and open to anyone, but you must **REGISTER** to compete. **The deadline to register is Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 10:30 am.** The **Squeezebox Shootout** Committee reserves the right to accept late entries at its discretion. **Please Note:** All competitors are asked to enter from North Broadway St. at the rear of the building through the registration area, **no later than 10 am.** **You are encouraged to register early!** If you are in line for late registration when registration closes, you will not be allowed to enter. There are several ways to register early, as indicated on the bottom of this document as well as on the Registration Form.

There are **4 categories** in the 2025 **Cajun Squeezebox Shootout**:

- Youth category:** Age 12 and under, on or before March 1, 2025
- Junior category:** Age 13-18, on or before March 1, 2025
- Adult category:** Age 19 and older, on or before March 1, 2025
- Professional category:** All ages

The winners will not only have the reward of being recognized as a World-Class Champion Accordion Player, but cash prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top three contestants in the first three categories!

- In the first segment of your competition, you will be required to play one Cajun Waltz and one Cajun 2-Step of your choice, as entered on your Registration form. You will have 2 minutes to play each song. The emcee will announce your song choice prior to you playing. There are no vocals or accompaniment allowed.
- In the second segment of your competition, you will play the compulsory song assigned to your specific category. Again, no vocals or accompaniment allowed.

The compulsory songs for the 2025 Cajun Squeezebox Shootout are as follows:

Youth Category: *The Back Door*

Junior Category: *Lacassine Special*

Adult Category: *Amédé 2-Step*

Professional Category: This song will be announced that day, at the time of registration.

Judging will be based on, a) how well you know and follow the song melody, b) utilization of the bass side of the accordion, c) your own personal style that you apply to your playing, and d) any embellishments you add while playing. **NOTE:** In the event of a tie in any category, the Judges will pick a random Cajun song known to the competitors for a playoff, and final determination of a winner. **ALL JUDGE'S DECISIONS ARE FINAL!!**

HOW TO REGISTER:

1. Go online to www.jeffdavis.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page. Click on the button marked "Cajun Squeezebox Shootout Forms". There you will find the Registration Form and the event Rules and Regulations.
2. Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to: Cajun Squeezebox Shootout, 826 E Nezpique, Jennings, LA, or email a copy to cajunsqueezebox25@yahoo.com
3. Print out the form, fill it out and fax it to Jeff Davis Tourist Commission office @ (337) 821-5521
4. Visit the Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission office at 100 Rue de l'Acadie, Jennings, LA, and fill out a form.

CASH PRIZES:

Youth: 1st Place \$ 200	2nd Place \$150	3rd Place \$ 75
Junior: 1st Place \$ 250	2nd Place \$175	3rd Place \$ 100
Adult: 1st Place \$ 350	2nd Place \$200	3rd Place \$ 125

The **Professional** category will have **one winner: \$500**

Note to Prospective Professional Category Competitors: Although you may also be eligible to compete in an Amateur Category as well, the Cajun Squeezebox Officials reminds you that competitors who choose to compete in the Professional Category, can only compete in that category. **No exceptions.** This ruling is made in the interest of overall fairness to our Amateur Competitors in order to insure a level competition field across the Amateur Categories. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated!

2025 Cajun Squeezebox Shootout 1st Place winners will be allowed to participate in that same category in 2026. The 2025 1st place winners will be allowed to defend their title for one year. If they win in 2026, they must sit out for one year before they become eligible to re-enter the competition in the same category.

DIRECTIONS TO THE COMPETITION SITE: From Interstate 10, Exit 64: Head South on Hwy 26 (Elton Rd) to Shankland Ave (US Hwy 90). Turn left on Shankland, continue to North Main Street. Turn right on North Main and continue 8 blocks to the Strand Theater on your left.

From Interstate 10, Exit 65: Head South on Evangeline Hwy (Hwy 97) to North Cutting. Turn left at North Cutting and continue to East Academy Avenue. Turn right at East Academy Ave. and continue to North Main Street. At North Main, turn left, and the Strand Theater will be on your left. The Strand Theater address is 432 North Main, Jennings, LA, 70546.

Should you need more information, please call Doug Dugas at (337) 329-0106, or email "cajunsqueezebox25@yahoo.com", or contact the Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission at (337) 821-5521.

"Helping Preserve and Promote Our Cajun Heritage and Music"



Registration Form

The **Cajun Squeezebox Shootout** is open to Cajun Style (single-row diatonic) accordion players of all ages and performance levels. There is no registration fee for the 2025 event.

There are four divisions: (check the one that applies to you)

- Youth Division:** Age 12 and under, on or before March 1, 2025
- Junior Division:** Age 13-18, on or before March 1, 2025
- Adult Division:** Age 19 and older, on or before March 1, 2025
- Professional Division:** All ages

NOTE: All fields of the registration form are required to complete the registration process.

Contestant Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Age on day of contest (03/01/2025): _____

Where did you hear about the Squeezebox Shootout? _____

What size tee-shirt do you wear? _____

Provide a few words about yourself so that the Master of Ceremonies can be familiar with you and your musical history: _____

Example: How long have you been playing? How did you learn to play an accordion? Do you, or have you ever, played with a live band? Recorded any music?

Please help us promote you by including as much information about you and your musicianship as possible.

There are several ways to register:

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2. Print out the form, fill it out and mail it to: Cajun Squeezebox Shootout, 2110 Hwy 90 East, Jennings, LA, or email a copy to cajunsqueezebox25@yahoo.com
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If you have any questions call Doug Dugas at (337) 329-0106 or e-mail cajunsqueezebox25@yahoo.com

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