



| The Times-Picayune

Greater New Orleans

ENTERTAINMENT ■

Today | Music | Dining | Drinks | **Louisiana Festivals** | Movies | TV | Celebs | Arts | Treme | Mardi Gras

Creole String Beans rev up the morning crowd at New Orleans Jazz Fest



By [Chris Waddington, NOLA.com](#) | [The Times-Picayune](#)

On May 05, 2013 at 12:59 PM, updated May 05, 2013 at 1:22 PM

The [Creole String Beans](#) got the picnic dance going Sunday (May 5) at [New Orleans Jazz Fest](#), with an easy-to-like, late-morning set of swamp pop, vintage rock and funky originals. This happy New Orleans party band drew an all-ages, ready-to-boogie audience to the Gentilly Stage.

Frowns were hard to spot while squinting into the sunshine. Seagulls soared overhead. Flags fluttered in a brisk wind. Near the back of the field, where the lawn survived a few soaking days, family groups settled on blankets and tarps.

Up front, the dancers were the usual South Louisiana mix: old folks showing their steps; daddies swinging toddlers; and lots of couples ready to celebrate the final day of the biggest party in town.

And, be assured: the Creole String Beans are the kind of group you want at a party. (If your party includes a few Parrotheads, fans of The Band and the kind of folks who rifle the jukebox for Louisiana rock chestnuts).



The Creole String Beans dished up south Louisiana jukebox music at New Orleans Jazz Fest on Sunday, May 5, 2013.



Fronted by singer and guitarist Rick Olivier (resplendent in seersucker jacket and pork pie hat) the group kept on track with charming stage patter and a focus on boogie essentials: guitar and bass in lockstep, a drummer who knows the virtues of simplicity, a pianist with a taste for the blues, and the honking power of a horn section that featured both a baritone and tenor saxophone.

This veteran crew knows its crowd. They also know how to program a 50-minute set. Their originals were good for sing-along fans - "Sally," "Shrimp Boots and Vintage Suits," - and they went for the best kind of covers, including a Chuck Berry rocker and Allen Toussaint's "Here Come the Girls."