Electric Rougarou brings a new vibe to Zydeco music

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Down here, in the heart of Cajun Country, nobody can resist a little Zydeco — but have you ever heard of “a rock band with a Zydeco motor?” This particular sound comes from a local upcoming band known as Electric Rougarou.

If you were wondering how they came up with this sound, exactly, part-time drummer Matt Cobb explains, “Electric Rougarou is a rock band driven by a zydeco beat... (which has) created an infectious original sound that listeners can two-step to.”

According to its press-kit, the band is composed of four main members: Jim McGee (lead vocals and guitar), Brent Williams (bass and guitar), Elizabeth Nix (piano, vocals and washboard) and Jack Langlinais (drums and vocals). All of the members come from different walks of life, which brings diversity and depth to the group.

McGee is a visionary stalwart of the roots of the Louisiana music scene, and Nix is a classical pianist and vocalist who applies her talents to the scrub board and accordion to bring joy and energy to the music. Williams has a strong career and background in the industry of jazz and jazz, and Langlinais has a degree in art studies and is accomplished in rock drumming.

According to Cobb, the band perform and listening to a couple of their songs, Electric Rougarou gave me a different and exciting angle on Zydeco music. The Zydeco grew up listing to has more of a creole Zydeco sound, so to be able to hear a new perspective of Zydeco music, right here in Lafayette performed at the Blue Moon Saloon, was a great way to spend my Saturday night.

Electric Rougarou’s mission, according to Cobb, is to “take traditional Louisiana music and update it for a modern world. They bring their varied interest and styles together with Lafayette’s carefree culture to become the happiest band in the land.”

Live from Lafayette, it’s Downtown Alive!

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Local legend Wayne Toups will be the de facto opener of this season of Downtown Alive! when he takes the stage at Parc International on Friday, after inclement conditions last week forced the cancellation of the scheduled commencement by Francophone Americana-revivalists Feufollet.

The Blasters are an out-of-left-field addition to this season’s lineup, bringing their high-octane hybrid of country and R&B to Parc Sans Souci on Oct. 7. Veterans of the 1980s Los Angeles underground scene, The Blasters started their career playing alongside proto-hardcore punk groups, like Black Flag and cow-punk pioneers, X, and toured briefly with Queen on the West Coast leg of their 1980 The Game Tour.

In conjunction with The Blasters’ American graffiti rock ‘n’ roll, Downtown Alive! is partnering with the Second Annual Bayou Round Up car show to line the streets with cars from before 1963, and to act as an interactive advertisement for the Bayou Round Up’s exhibition in Blackham Coliseum on Oct. 8.

On Oct. 21, New Orleans’ hard-hitting party-rockers, Cowboy Mouth, will make up for their April Fools’ Day set that was rained out earlier this year. An aggressively country-fried Barenaked Ladies/Better Than Ezra lovechild, Cowboy Mouth take pride in their dynamic, frenetic performances, which should deliver a needed shot of adrenaline to Parc International.

Downtown Alive! will take place almost every Friday night until the eve of Thanksgiving, when Mayor-President Joel Robideaux, in what can be perceived as an affront to pilgrims and turkeys all across America, will signal the end of the autumn revelry by lighting the city’s official Christmas tree. Political suicide, Mr. Robideaux.

Live music is a large part of Louisiana culture and a program like Downtown Alive! doesn’t just happen. Like Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch, the government and myself, it needs money. To say that times have been hard in Cajun country would be an understatement — between the sunken economy and the high waters, there’s a lot of damage being done to budgets and piggy banks.

However, funding for DTA! comes exclusively from beverage and ‘merch’ sales, and to keep DTA! free, you need to buy a beer. Or a coke. Or a water, if you’re into hydration. Put down your hammer and sickle and partake in this capitalist escapade. The revolution can wait, comrade.

Concession sales begin at 5:30 p.m. and the performances at 6 p.m. Find me and we’ll have a drink together and toast free music in the dying sunshine haze of a Lafayette Friday.

Sept. 23
Wayne Toups & Zydecajun (Parc International)

Sept. 30
Terry & The Zydecou Bad Boys (Parc Sans Souci)

Oct. 7
The Blasters with CC Adcock and The Lafayette Marquis (Parc Sans Souci)
Bayou Round Up Car Show

Oct. 21
Cowboy Mouth (Parc International)

Oct. 28
Cedryl Ballou & the Zydeco Trendsetters (Parc Sans Souci)

Nov. 4
Keith Frank & the Soileau Zydeco Band (Parc Sans Souci)

Nov. 23
Pine Leaf Boys (Parc Sans Souci)
Holiday Celebration and official lighting of the City Christmas Tree