Cajun music doesn't all have to sound like chank-a-chank, as charming and well-liked that that style can be. Renaissance 'Cadienne has gone back to the roots of Cajun music and brought forth entertainment which harkens back to that found locally at the turn of the century.

Renaissance 'Cadienne is a performance troupe from the Acadiana area. Made up of 31 members, the group wears authentic late nineteenth-century costumes and performs songs and dances they've heard in dance halls, churches, in old recordings and from their parents and grandparents.

Formed in 1987 as La Compagnie Louisianaise by Michael Landry and Dr. Robert Gilmore, the group weaved stories with the aid of dancing, singing and musical instruments. In 1990, it traveled to France for a five-week tour. Due to differences of opinion on what direction the group should take, it split into two different performing troupes in 1990. Gilmore now heads La Compagnie Louisianaise and Landry is director of Renaissance 'Cadienne.

Since 1990, Renaissance 'Cadienne has expanded its repertoire to approximately 25 songs, almost all arranged by the members themselves. The dancing incorporates traditional steps, and for those who can't speak French, the musical stories are translated into English.

Renaissance 'Cadienne has come a long way since 1990. It has performed all across Acadiana, in Canada, and in various locations in the United States.

On Saturday, June 13, the group will perform at the City Club of Lafayette in an effort to raise money for a July 1-17 trip to France. The 7 p.m. performance is open to the public. Tickets are $10, which includes hors d'oeuvres and the show. For ticket information, call the City Club at 266-2250.

When they arrive in France in July, the group (which will consist of 20 members who are available to tour) will make seven stops: in Chantellerault, Cezy, Joigny, Nantes, Abberville, Auray, Suresnes, and Mur de Bretagne.

In the 1800's, many of the original settlers left from these three of these cities to settle in Canada. From there they traveled to Acadia. For Renaissance 'Cadienne it's a sentimental journey back.

If you would like to help make their trip possible, mail your donation to Renaissance 'Cadienne, Inc., 205 Kevin Drive, Lafayette 70507.