

Take Me To The River New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Songs

The music of the Mardi Gras Indians is heavily influenced by the gatherings that took place in Congo Square. With repetitious Bamboula rhythms (also referred to as Street Beat or Second Line Beats) coupled with call and response, the music is just as important within Mardi Gras Indian traditions as the beadwork. In this worksheet, you'll explore how these core elements have remained a part of Mardi Gras Indians music from traditional music to Mardi Gras Indian Funk.

"To-Way-Bac-A-Way" (1958)

What instrument(s) do you hear on the recording? Which instrument/s are playing the rhythmic foundation of the song?

What sort of song form is used? Write what you hear.

Do the song lyrics seem to be pre-written or improvised?

What sort of musical influences do you hear in this recording?

“Two Way Pak E Way” by The Wild Magnolias (1974)

What instrument(s) do you hear on the recording? Which one is playing the rhythmic foundation of the song?

What sort of song form is used? How does this form differ from the previous version?

Do the song lyrics seem to be pre-written or improvised? What references do you hear in the lyrics?

What sort of musical influences do you hear in this recording?

“Tu Way Pocky Way” by Big Chief Juan Pardo and the Golden Comanches (2015)

What instrument(s) do you hear on the recording? Which one is playing the rhythmic foundation of the song?

What sort of song form is used? How does this form differ from the previous version?

Do the song lyrics seem to be pre-written or improvised? What references do you hear in the lyrics?

What sort of musical influences do you hear in this recording?

“Tu Way Pocky Way” by Flagboy Giz (2021)

What instrument(s) do you hear on the recording? Which one is playing the rhythmic foundation of the song?

What sort of song form is used? How does this form differ from the previous version?

Do the song lyrics seem to be pre-written or improvised? What references do you hear in the lyrics?

What sort of musical influences do you hear in this recording?

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Unit 5: Won't Bow Down - the Traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians

Lesson 4: Firewater - the Music of the Mardi Gras Indians