



FORGOTTEN VOICES:
AN EXAMINATION OF
BLACK LOUISIANA CREOLE
FOLK SONG THROUGH THE WORKS OF
MAUD CUNEY-HARE AND CAMILLE NICKERSON

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Creole Origins

- Slaves arrived in Louisiana as early as 1722
- 2/3 of Louisiana slave population was imported from the Senegambia region
- Within the first two decades upon arrival to Louisiana, Creoles adapted and create their own language





KEY CONTRIBUTORS

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Maude Cuney- Hare

- 1847-1936
- Born in Galveston, Texas
- Accomplished Musician and Scholar
- Promoter of African-Americans in the arts
- Lecturer of Creole Music
- *Most significant academic accomplishment:
Negro Musicians and Their Music*



Six Creole Folk Songs

- *Six Creole Folk Songs* was arranged by Maud Cuney-Hare and published by Carl Fischer in 1921. It was originally written for medium voice and piano.

1. “Aurore Pradère”
2. “Gardé piti mulet là”
3. “Belle Layotte”
4. “Quand mo-té jeune” (Bal fini)
5. “Aine, dé, trois, Caroline”
6. “Dialogue d’Amour”

Key Contributors

Camille Nickerson

- 1888-1982
- Born in New Orleans of Creole descent
- Accomplished Pianist and Singer
- Scholar and educator
- Known as the “Louisiana Lady”



Five Creole Songs

- Five Creole Songs was harmonized and arranged by Camille Nickerson and published by Boston Music Company in 1942. It was written for medium voice and piano. Originally Nickerson collected over one hundred songs during her research in New Orleans. Out of those songs, these five are the only songs published for solo voice.

1. “Chere, Mo Lemme Toi”
2. “Lizette, Ma chère amie”
3. “Dansé Conni Conné”
4. “Fais Do Do”
5. “Garde Pitti Mulet Là” (Mr. Banjo)

Further Reading

- Cuney-Hare, Maud, and Josephine Harreld Love. *Negro Musicians and Their Music*. African American women writers, 1910–1940; New York: G.K. Hall & Co., 1996. (revised ed)
- Nickerson, Camille. “Africo-Creole Music in Louisiana.” Master's thesis, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, 1932.
- Long, Jessica Foy , “Forgotten Voices: An Examination of Black Louisiana Creole Folk Song through the Works of Maud Cuney-Hare and Camille Nickerson.” DMA lecture Recital document. Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia 2016, Worldcat (969298635).