

# When The Saints Go Marching In



UKULELE CLUB OF SANTA CRUZ    OCTOBER 2005    MUSIC OF NEW ORLEANS

No other city in America enjoys parades as much as New Orleans. New York may have its big Thanksgiving Day Parade, Pasadena, California's Rose Parade is a beautiful way to bring in the New Year, and Boston's St. Patrick's Day Parade approaches the debauchery of Mardi Gras, but nowhere do parades roll with such frequency and are celebrated with as much enthusiasm as in New Orleans.

One aspect of parading in New Orleans that is particularly unique to the city is the lack of association with any particular holiday -- people here have parades to honor a recently deceased loved one, or just for the fun of it. Parades succeed in bringing communities together, and it is perhaps this aspect of New Orleans parades that make them so special to attendees.

Jazz funeral parades bring together family and friends to pay respect and honor the deceased, but they also serve as an open invitation for anyone whose life was touched by the honoree to come and celebrate the life of that person. The history of jazz funeral parades dates back to the turn of the century in New Orleans when fellow musicians would honor the passing of a friend and peer by holding a musical tribute and parade.

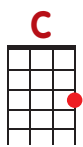
Traditionally, the jazz funeral parade has two sections, the "first line," consisting of the grand marshals, traditional jazz band, pallbearers and honorary pallbearers, and the "second line," comprised of all the well-wishers and the various people from the neighborhood who join in the parade.

It is after the interment of the deceased that the second line really takes over the parade and the overall spirit of the parade completes its metamorphosis from melancholy respect to joyful celebration. Once the hearse drives off and the first line parade headed out, the band breaks into "When The Saints Go Marching In," and the festive celebrations begin. It is this celebration that second line parades relish.

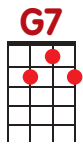
However, what is important at second line parades is not which band attracts the biggest crowd, but that everyone has a good time. There are many unique aspects of New Orleans that make it an easy city to love, but few are as special as the New Orleans second line parade.

Oh when the saints go marching in  
 When the saints go marching in  
 Oh lord I want to be in that number  
 When the saints go marching in

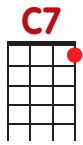
When the revelation comes  
 When the revelation comes  
 Oh lord I want to be in that number  
 When the saints go marching in



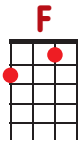
And when the sun begins to shine  
 And when the sun begins to shine



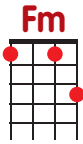
Oh lord I want to be in that number  
 When the saints go marching in



Oh when the trumpet sounds the call  
 Oh when the trumpet sounds the call  
 Oh lord I want to be in that number



When the saints go marching in



Oh on that hallelujah day  
 On that hallelujah day  
 Oh lord I want to be in that number  
 When the saints go marching in

When we all have food to eat  
 When we all have food to eat  
 Oh lord I want to be in that number  
 When the saints go marching in