

A banner for 'THE ZYDEPUNKS Bio' featuring a collage of musical instruments like an accordion, fiddle, and drums in the background. The text 'THE ZYDEPUNKS' is in a large, bold, distressed font, and 'Bio' is in a smaller, clean font to the right.

THE ZYDEPUNKS Bio

Innovators, rebels, and survivors. Despite the turbulent times in Louisiana's recent history, the Zydepunks have grown from their New Orleans home to be a regional and international phenomenon. Yiddish riddles, Irish ballads, Cajun punk, and vocals in six languages are a small demonstration of why they astound new audiences. Wild folk dances fronted by accordion and fiddle and backed by relentless drums and bass are a testament to the high-energy folk-punk dance craze that is a Zydepunks show.

The Zydepunks' new release FINISTERRE is the culmination of years of musical experience and the honing of their unique folk/punk sound. Massachusetts label Nine Mile Records (NMR) is releasing this highly anticipated album nationally on October 21, 2008.

With FINISTERRE, the Zydepunks are releasing an album featuring original material that draws from their various folk influences and punk rock roots. Slavic rhythms, French melodies, songs in three languages (Spanish, English, French) and punk rock beats combine with often dark lyrics reflecting their experiences from the last few years, while tracks written by drummer Joseph Lilly break the folk boundaries and push the band into an entirely new sound.

Echoes of New Orleans' tumultuous times appear in "Long Story Short" and "Song For Mike", both dedicated to Michael Frey, a friend to the band murdered in 2006. "Dear Molly" was written while the band was evacuated in North Carolina as a song of longing and dispossession. "Por la orilla del mar" combines traditional Ecuadorian song with Slavic melodies in a story about a man being forced to leave his home to search for a new life - a story about immigrants from South of the border and Louisiana's own diaspora.

Produced by the Zydepunks at New Orleans' Piety Street Studios, musicians featured on the album include a who's who of the Louisiana music scene: bassist Alan LaFleur (from the Grammy-nominated Lost Bayou Ramblers), cellist Helen Gillet (Wazozo), violinist Matt Rhody (New Orleans Jazz Vipers/ Hot Club of New Orleans), guitarist Stix duh Clown (My Graveyard Jaw), singer Meschiya Lake (Loose Marbles), violinist Frank Scully, and cellist Aubrey Freeman (Why Are We Building Such a Big Ship) all made valuable contributions to the album.

Having just completed a North American and European tour, the Zydepunks are preparing for additional tour dates in 2008 & 2009.

The Zydepunks are:

Denise Bonis: violin, vocals

Before moving to New Orleans from Los Angeles, Denise performed with Menthol Hill on piano and violin, and toured with Lisa Germano, adding vocals and autoharp to the mix. New Orleans music credits include vocals and violin on Chappy and her own solo project.

Juan Christian Küffner: accordion, fiddle, lead vocals

Juan was fortunate to be able to speak four languages by the time he was 12 years old. His first music gig was playing organ at a local church, which he later dropped for playing with punk rock bands in Glasgow, UK. There his old roommate, John Grant, convinced him to try his hand at fiddle (much to the distaste of the others living there). His side projects include Malt Liquor Rebellion and the occasional performance with the G-String Orchestra.

Joe Lilly: drums, vocals

Joe Lilly is a drumming virtuoso and almost single-handedly provides the driving rhythm section of the band. He is an occasional session musician and former member of "Robots Marching".

Scott Potts: bass, vocals

Scott's well known in the New Orleans music scene for running Guerilla Studios and recording a wide array of New Orleans bands. The Zydepunks are forever his debt for learning 15 Zydepunks songs in one night for a performance at the Freret Street Festival.

Eve: accordion, melodica, vocals

Eve spent seven years as a street performer in Europe, earning her living playing accordion music from around the globe. In New Orleans she has also performed with the Loose Marbles and local productions of "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Cabaret".