The Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University will host three concerts by Louisiana musicians during the spring semester. Each concert will be held at noon in the Friedman Student Union. Admission is free and open to the public. The concerts are co-sponsored by NSU’s Office of Cultural Diversity.

Cajun and Texas swing musician Sarah Jayde Williams will perform on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009. Tarumbae will be featured on Wednesday, Feb. 18 with Zydepunks performing on Wednesday, March 18. The performing musicians will also hold workshops for Northwestern students.

Williams is part of the fourth generation of the musical Castille clan to pick up an instrument and play. Initially trained at the age of four as a classical violinist, Jayde soon learned Cajun fiddle from her grandfather, acclaimed fiddler, Hadley J. Castille. After getting a handle on the Cajun way of making the fiddle sing, she soon branched out into the western swing that was also a staple on the Castille stereo.

A fan of Patsy Cline and Etta James, Williams has become a vocalist, singing fluently in both Cajun French and English. Honing her craft on the concert stage at festivals throughout the United States and Canada, Williams released her debut recording, “Special Edition Cajun & Texas Swing.”

Ron Hardy aka Tarumbae brings to the stage an abundance of real world life experiences and positive consciousness.

Since his debut production in 1986 "Midnite Reggae Groove" a single that Hardy wrote, produced and arranged, he has continued to bring positive and flavorful music to the world. He has also recorded “Warzone,” “Book 3 Synthesis” and his latest, “Unplugged And Off The Chain,” He is also a Louisiana State Roster Artist and is listed in the state of Louisiana’s Touring Directory.

Hardy instructs the Wider Education Thru Music Participation, a program he developed and designed at San Francisco’s Buchanan YMCA, to teach understanding and building rhythms for youth and adults. Additionally, he is an instructor for the Urban Music Workshop, another program he developed to teach young aspiring artists the nuts and bolts of the music industry. Hardy is also the founder and executive director of Playaz & Playettes, Inc., a non-profit charitable educational corporation in Shreveport.

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.