

what does it mean to be an

Acadian?



Many young people don't realize that once most of Maine was called Acadia. Arriving in 1604, the Acadians were the first colonists of Maine, the "French Neutrals" whose deportation from Nova Scotia was chronicled in Longfellow's epic poem, *Evangeline*. Acadian culture is distinct and alive in American society today, and can be witnessed in the unique music, cuisine, language, customs and attitudes of today's Acadian-Mainers, as well as in the remarkable culture of the the Acadians of Louisiana, known as the Cajuns.

Robert Sylvain, Jr.

is an Acadian-Mainer committed to sharing the traditions of a culture that has been in hiding for generations. As lead singer for the groups Boréal Tordu, Douce, and the Acadian Aces, Robert has toured internationally, and his music has been heard on CBC, PBS and TV5 and on a compilation cd from Le Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques. He has studied with Breton guitar master David Surette through a grant from the Maine Arts Council, and is well-known as a leading exponent of Acadian music in Maine. Drawing from notebooks of Acadian songs left to him by his Mémère Thibodeau, and from his collaborations with Louisiana Cajun cousin Matthew Doucet and renowned Acadian fiddler Steve Muise, Robert explores his rich musical heritage and advances it to a new level.



In a 50-minute educational program designed for K-12, Robert uses song and story to teach...

*Acadian Culture
in Maine,
a musical history...*

conveying the *Joie de Vivre* of Acadian culture while reinforcing important lessons in geography and American history, along with a discussion of music and culture, plus a little Acadian French language lesson. By allowing students to play traditional instruments, dance and sing along, Robert delivers an interactive educational experience for all ages that is engaging and unforgettable.

www.robertsylvain.com

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