

SECOND LINE



Steven Tabor
2023 (c)

Second Line

A New Orleans Second Line is a vibrant and culturally significant tradition that encapsulates the heart and soul of the city's musical and social heritage. Originating in the brass band parades of the late 19th century, the Second Line has evolved into a dynamic fusion of music, dance, and community celebration. At its core, the Second Line represents a joyous display of collective spirit, where a brass band leads the procession while revelers, known as the "second line," follow with exuberant dancing, twirling parasols, and lively expressions of festivity. This tradition symbolizes the resilience, unity, and infectious energy of New Orleans, reflecting the city's rich history and multicultural influences.

Central to the Second Line's significance is its ability to transcend boundaries and bring together people from all walks of life. As the brass band plays upbeat and syncopated rhythms, the infectious melodies resonate through the streets, beckoning individuals to join the procession. Participants become immersed in the music's rhythmic pulse, moving with a sense of freedom and self-expression. The Second Line embodies the spirit of New Orleans' "laissez les bons temps rouler" (let the good times roll) attitude, providing an avenue for people to let go of their worries and embrace the present moment. In a city renowned for its musical legacy, the New Orleans Second Line stands as a living testament to the power of music and dance to create a harmonious and unifying experience for all who partake.

This series was shot at the second-line parade held in honor of Louis Armstrong at the 2013 Satchmo Festival. To celebrate Armstrong's legacy, the Treme Brass Band led the attendees out of Sunday mass at St. Augustine Church in the Treme neighborhood and marched through the French Quarter for a Second-Line parade to the New Orleans Jazz Museum. The temperatures were high and the air was thick, but everyone was dressed in their finest; enthusiasm abounded, and spirits soared in the morning sun.









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