

THE TIMES

All you could want for Swamp Pop Christmas

MATTHEW SIGUR

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If you look closely in your stocking, you'll find a little swamp pop gold in it — an early present from the Acadiana Center for the Arts (AcA) and Louisiana Crossroads.

The Lil Band of Gold will perform its first-ever Swamp Pop Christmas Pageant on Thursday and Friday night, Dec. 8 and 9, at the AcA's James D. Moncus Theatre. Both shows take place at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$15.

The band is a super-group of swamp pop, Cajun and rock 'n' roll heroes from the state. If you aren't familiar with them, perhaps you heard of some its members: Warren Storm, Tommy McClain, David Egan, Steve Riley, CC Adcock, Richard Comeaux, Dickie Landry, David Ranson and Pat Breaux.

I, myself, am wondering how they fit all that legend on one stage.

"We're the coon-*** Buena Vista Social Club," Adcock said, mentioning not only it the seasonal show a first for the band, but it's also the first time in awhile they've rehearsed.

"I always thought the idea of Crossroads to mix things up and take the artist out of his normal set or environment," he said.

"For this one, we'd do something we've never tried before, which is rehearse."

Though Adcock's off-kilter humor pervaded an interview last Friday, the singer/guitarist was sincere about the band's approach to the show.

"We wanted to make it feel like everybody was coming home for Christmas," he said. "It'll be good to get everybody in the Christmas spirit."

However, this show won't feature your run-of-the-mill holiday songs. For the past two-and-a-half decades, Adcock has been carrying around a 90-minute Maxell cassette "with all this super-obscure Christmas music on it," he said. "Every Christmas season, I start blasting this cassette."

Some of the songs the band will play include "Please Come Home for Christmas," which includes "one of the greatest top five guitar solos of all-time," he said.

"Warren Storm sings that song so well," he added. "Storm and Tommy McClaine have singing Christmas songs in the honky-tonks for the past years, for so long, so we'll have a few of those standards. But it won't be your normal, boring Christmas set."

What will it be like? Leave it to Adcock to sell it with a joke and a tip of his hat.

"It's like a musical way of having grown-ups come sit on Santa's lap," he said, before adding. "But you don't have to really sit on our laps."