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# Fab 5 closes out Catfish Festival Sunday

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By Brad Meyer | 0 comments

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Cajun, country and Creole may be the themes for most of the entertainment at the 2011 Conroe Cajun Catfish Festival, but organizers are adding a dash of early "British Invasion" to spice things up.

The Fab 5, Houston's highly regarded Beatles tribute band, takes the stage from 3:30-6 p.m. Sunday at the Cajun Catfish Festival. The popular nostalgia group performs hits by the Beatles and other classic rock groups from the 60s.

"Beatles music is popular with just about every generation from young kids to baby boomers," said Joe Baiardi, bass player with the Fab 5. "The early rock and roll music is still a big hit with young kids, teens and their parents."

Baiardi attributes the longevity and continued popularity of Beatles music to the innocence of the era and the unique melodic hook of the Lennon and McCartney songwriting. For two decades, the Fab 5 have cashed in on the nostalgia of an earlier age.

As one of the top Beatles bands in the country, not just the Houston area, the Fab 5 start the show in the black suits worn by the lads from Liverpool on "The Ed Sullivan" show. They also use the same brand of guitars, amplifiers and drums associated with the Beatles from that era.

"We're very committed to being as historically accurate as possible," said Baiardi. "That goes for the sound as well as the instruments we play - we want everything to be accurate."

## Fab 5 closes out Catfish Festival Sunday



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As the show progresses, so does the Fab 5 commitment to realism. The second stage of their performance features

costumes and music from the "Sgt. Pepper" era. Playing songs from that period of Beatles music is harder than most fans realize.

"The Beatles stopped touring by the time of 'Sgt. Pepper' and 'Magical Mystery Tour' – that music was never intended to be played live on stage in front of an audience," said Baiardi. "It's a challenge, but we've worked at it for a long time. It's a very popular part of the show."

For Baiardi, "Rubber Soul" is the best of the Beatles remarkable catalog of music recorded between 1962 and their breakup in 1970.

"It marks the change from pop music to serious songwriting," he said. "It's still tuneful, but the songs are beginning to take on more serious meaning."

While the core of every Fab 5 performance is based on the Beatles, Baiardi said the group includes music from a number of classic rock performers and groups, including the Zombies, Moody Blues, Steppenwolf, Three Dog Night, Chicago, Elton John and a variety of Motown hits.

"Obviously, we love the Beatles," he said, "but there is a lot of great music from the 60s and 70s – we like to mix it up a bit. But in the end, it always comes back to the Beatles. There's a good reason people think they are the best band ever."

For more information on the Fab 5, Houston's top Beatles tribute band, visit [www.thefab5.net](http://www.thefab5.net) or call 832-259-2399.

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