

## **The Mardi Gras Song (La Danse de Mardi Gras)**

As performed by the Savoy-Doucet Cajun Band

Translation by Ann Allen Savoy

Lyrics, Pronunciation, Chords, and Translation

<p><b>Instrumental intro</b></p> <p><i>Verse 1:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Les Mardi Gras ça vient a long la terre <i>Lay Mahr-dee Grah sah vyehn ah lohngue lah tere</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em Am</b></p> <p>Tout alentour, le tour du moyeu <i>Toot ah-lahn-toor, luh toor doo mwah-yuhr</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Ça passe une fois par an <i>Tah pahs uhn fwah pahr ahn</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G Am</b></p> <p>Demander la charité <i>Duh-mahn-day lah shar-ree-tay</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Quand même si c'est une poule grasse <i>Kahn-mehm see say uhn pool grahse</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em Am</b></p> <p>Une tit' poule grasse et des gratons <i>uhn tee pool grahse ay day grah-tohn</i></p> <p><i>Verse 2:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Les Mardi Gras sont pas des malfecteurs <i>Lay Mahr-dee Grah sohnd pah dez mahlfekturs</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em Am</b></p> <p>C'est juste des chamondeurs <i>Say joost day shay-mon-durhs</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Ça demande une tit' poule grasse <i>Sah duh-mahnd uhn tee pool grahse</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G Am</b></p> <p>Ou de maïs et des gratons <i>Duh- mah-ees ay day grah-tohn</i></p>	<p><b>Translation:</b></p> <p>The Mardi Gras they come from across the land</p> <p>All around, around the hub</p> <p>They pass one time each year</p> <p>To ask for charity</p> <p>Even if it's a fat hen</p> <p>A bit a small fat hen and some <i>gratons</i>*</p> <p>The Mardi Gras are not trouble makers,</p> <p>They are just beggars</p> <p>They demand a small fat hen</p> <p>Or some corn and some gratons</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Ça demande une patate douce <i>Sah duh-mahnd uhn pah-that doose</i></p>	They demand a sweet potato,
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em            Am</b></p> <p>Des gratons et ‘tit poulet <i>Day grah-tons et tee poolay</i></p>	Some gratons and a small chicken
<b>Instrumental break</b>	
<i>Verse 3:</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>Capitaine, Capitaine, voyage ton flag <i>Kah-pee-tehn, Kah-pee-tehn, vwah-yahzh tohn flahg</i></p>	Captain, Captain, fly your flag
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em            Am</b></p> <p>Allons allez c’ez l’autre voisin <i>Ahlohnz allay say loht vwah-zehn</i></p>	Let’s go to the other neighbor
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>On est là tous les soirs <i>On ay lah too lay swahrs</i></p>	We’ll be here all evening
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>G            Am</b></p> <p>Demander la charité <i>Duh-mahn-day lah shar-ree-tay</i></p>	To ask for charity
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Am</b></p> <p>On est là tous les soirs <i>On ay lah too lay swahrs</i></p>	We’ll be here all night
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Em            Am</b></p> <p>Oui au gumbo c’est savoir <i>Oo-ay oh guhm-boh say sav-war</i></p>	Yes, till the gumbo* is known
<b>Instrumental outro</b>	

\***gratons**: crisply fried hog fat – a Cajun staple

\***gumbo**: Southwest Louisiana stew, made in a big pot (usually a flour, onion, pepper base with chicken, sausage, and okra over rice)