From “If I Ever Cease to Love” and other waltzes, music and Mardi Gras have been bound to each other.

Mardi Gras probably would not exist in its current form if it weren’t for the street music that accompanies parades, and much of New Orleans’ music wouldn’t exist if it weren’t for Mardi Gras. Henri Schindler, in his book Mardi Gras: New Orleans, writes “the joyous license of [New Orleans’] music owes more than a passing acquaintance to the liberties of Mardi Gras and a population long-accustomed to dancing in the streets.”

While waltzes may be popular in the ballrooms, drum-heavy bands get people moving in the streets. Traditional military music, the call and response of the Mardi Gras Indians and modern funk played by brass bands all have a place in the lexicon of Mardi Gras music.

From Bienville to Bourbon Street to bounce. 300 moments that make New Orleans unique.