

Jambalaya – Hank Williams

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Key: C Capo: Notes: Original has the G as G7
*Pirogue [pee-row]: A Cajun canoe.

[Intro]
G – G – C – C

[Verse 1]
C G
Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh my oh.
G C
Me gotta go, pole the pirogue* down the bayou
C G
My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh my oh
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun, on the bayou.

[Chorus]
C G
Jambalaya and crawfish pie, and filé gumbo
G C
Cause tonight I'm gonna see my chère-amie'o
C G
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar, and be gay-o
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have some fun on the bayou

[Solo]

[Verse 2]
C G
Thibodaux, Fontaineaux, the place is buzzin'
G C
Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the dozen
C G
We dress in style, go hog wild, me oh my oh
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have some fun on the bayou

[Chorus]
C G
Jambalaya and crawfish pie, and filé gumbo
G C
Cause tonight I'm gonna see my chère-amie'o
C G
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar, and be gay-o
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have some fun on the bayou

[Solo]
C G
Settle down, far from town get me a Pirogue*
G C
And I'll catch all the fish in the bayou
C G
Swap mon to buy Yvonne what she need oh
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have some fun, on the bayou

[Chorus]
C G
Jambalaya and crawfish pie, and filé gumbo
G C
Cause tonight I'm gonna see my chère-amie'o
C G
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar, and be gay-o
G C
Son of a gun, we'll have some fun on the bayou

[Ending]
C

Hank Williams is not singing about towns. Thibodeaux and Fontenot are common Cajun family names. He's saying members of these two prodigious families are present. Which means a lot of people.

The narrator leaves to pole a pirogue* down the shallow water of the bayou, to attend a party with his girlfriend Yvonne and her family. At the feast they have Cajun cuisine, notably Jambalaya, crawfish pie and filé gumbo, and drink liquor from fruit jars. Yvonne is his [ma] "chère amie", which is Cajun French for "my dear (female) friend" or more likely to mean "my girlfriend".