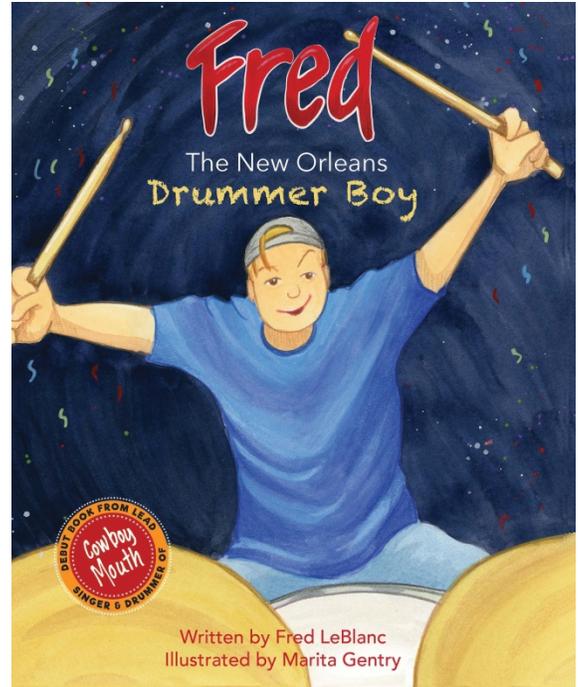




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**Fred the New Orleans Drummer Boy**  
**Debut Children's Book**  
**by Fred LeBlanc of Cowboy Mouth**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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***Fred the New Orleans Drummer Boy***  
**Written by Fred LeBlanc and Illustrated by Marita Gentry**

Fred lives in New Orleans, where music fills the air and sounds out a beat that leaves everyone tapping their feet. It's no wonder that he dreams of becoming a musician and practices drums every chance he gets. The only thing Fred loves more than practicing the drums is playing music with his friends, JT and EV. But to complete their band, the friends need a bass player. When they meet Little B, they know their band is complete, but Little B has a big problem. He has stage fright! Can the band learn to work together and overcome their fears?

Fred LeBlanc, the lead singer and drummer of Cowboy Mouth, the New Orleans-based band that reached national fame with its rowdy rock 'n' roll spirit and catchy songs, infuses a little bit of himself and his bandmates into the characters of Fred and his friends. He shares with his readers the power of friendship, the benefits of positivity, and a joyous love of music.

Explore the city of New Orleans and its music with young Fred and his friends, then go behind the scenes as Fred LeBlanc shares the personal story of how music has inspired and shaped this real-life New Orleans drummer boy.

## THE AUTHOR

Fred LeBlanc has consistently been rocking stages for more than twenty-five years as the drummer and singer/songwriter for Louisiana Music Legend Cowboy Mouth. Producing a uniquely joyous and celebratory experience, Fred has been spreading his enthusiastic and powerful performance style to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Mardi Gras, and to stages around the world, bringing with him his own brand of life-affirming, New Orleans-flavored rock 'n' roll.

### BEHIND THE SCENES WITH FRED LEBLANC (excerpt from Author's Notes)

"I was born deaf and with a set of under-developed lungs. I was three years old before the problems in my ears could be fixed. So in order to draw me out of my own little world, my parents would lay my head on stereo speakers while they played the music that they enjoyed: show tunes, classical music, and opera. The old family story goes that I could sing Italian opera before I could talk. Music has always been my first method of communication and is something that has always been inside of me.

It was natural, then, that I gravitated towards performing. As a performer I was always keenly aware of the effect that live music has on an audience. I love that it can be a celebration of life as well as a method of relief from burdens. I hope to share with my audience the release and joy that I feel when I play, and share the experience, that momentary euphoria when you find the best of yourself. Lofty goals, to be sure – but if you don't shoot for the moon you'll never hit the stars."

### River Road Press, New Orleans

River Road Press LLC was founded in 2014 in New Orleans, Louisiana with a focus on children's books, history, Southern culture and food. River Road Press is a boutique publisher, committed to publishing the highest quality books, and encourages collaboration and artistic partnership with its authors, illustrators, photographers, and artists. *Rio Grande Valley ABC*, *The Little Float That Could*, *USS Alabama: Hooray for the Mighty A!*, *Ten Gators in the Bed*, *Bugs on the Rug*, *Gumbo Ya Ya*, and *Strange True Stories of Louisiana* were its debut titles in 2015. In addition to *Fred the New Orleans Drummer Boy*, River Road Press also published *Simon of New Orleans* for release in Fall 2016.

For photos, images, review copies, interview requests, author appearances, or more information about *The Little Float That Could*, River Road Press, or its other titles, call (504) 722-8139, email [scott@riverroadpress.com](mailto:scott@riverroadpress.com) or visit River Road Press at [www.riverroadpress.com](http://www.riverroadpress.com)