

# MOMPREENEURS



**KATY HOBGOOD RAY**  
**CONFETTI PARK PLAYERS**

## LULLABIES AND LAGNIAPPE

A musical ethnographer with an M.A. in musicology, Katy Hobgood Ray has always been passionate about music. But when she became a mother to son Louis five years ago, she says she started dreaming up lullabies and silly songs for him. She also started collecting children's music from Louisiana, and sharing them with her son and the kids in their Algiers Point neighborhood.

In Fall 2014, what had started as informal sing-a-long sessions with Louis and other local kids became a more organized gathering when they moved inside the Algiers Methodist Church for formal practices. Confetti Park Players was born.

Named after the playground, Confetti Park Players today comprises a children's media workshop, a weekly radio program and a podcast. Katy and the Confetti Park Players perform in concert at various festivals throughout the state, and the Confetti Park radio show began airing in April 2015. In addition to their on-air singing performances, the kids also contribute jokes, skits, and poems to the program.

If that's not enough, Confetti Park has produced a CD and two books—one, *The Little Mouse Santi*, written by Katy's husband, and one, *Candy Land Ball*, written by Katy and due out this month. All of this keeps Katy quite busy, as she still has a day job at Tulane University.

"As I grow Confetti Park, I am putting in a lot of early mornings, late nights, and weekends," she says. "I am working toward growing the underwriting for the radio show. I am a creative type by nature, but it's my responsibility to learn about the world of business."

Her son will be learning with her, as he is one of the Confetti Park Players.

"He knows all the words to all the songs and comes to support us at all the performances," she says. "However, he is a handful at choir practices—I don't think he likes sharing Mom with 30 other kids."

### NF: THE FIRST RECORD YOU EVER BOUGHT?

**KATY:** MC Hammer's "U Can't Touch This." True!

Confetti Park Players, 504.650.1238, [confettipark.com](http://confettipark.com)



**MADELINE SPIERS**  
**TOUR CYCLE STUDIO**

## SWEAT EQUITY

Madeline Spiers dreamed she'd be a dancer when she grew up. After graduating from high school, she moved to New York City to pursue that profession, spending hours training multiple days a week. But she suffered joint and ligament pain; soon other activities became difficult for her as well, including running. So she tried a cycling class.

"I loved it! The music, the people, the sweat!" she says.

When she returned to New Orleans a year later to attend Loyola University, she wanted to continue her active lifestyle. And she found that although running, yoga, and barre were all well-established here, indoor cycling was not.

"I majored in Political Science and English and was planning to attend law school upon graduation," she says, "but this little voice in my head kept telling me to take a big risk," and open her own boutique cycling studio. By the end of her senior year, while studying for finals, she was also working on a business plan for her dream studio. She opened Tour Cycle Studio last November.

The facility, located in a renovated building on Tchoupitoulas Street that used to house Royal Mop and Broom, features 35 stationary bikes on a stadium-style platform, lots of mirrors, cool lights, pumping music, and spa-like locker and washroom areas. Classes are pay-as-you go, and instructors—including Madeline—are called Tour Guides.

In addition to running her own business, Madeline is a busy stepmom to twins Keegan and Ella, age 10. She says that Tour Cycle has been an adjustment, requiring a lot of her time away from home. She does get to see the kids and her husband at work, though—they often take classes as a family.

"I believe staying fit together in a fun environment encourages our kids to maintain healthy habits into adulthood."

### NF: YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC TO CYCLE TO?

**MADELINE:** I personally love pop remixes. Justin Bieber, Chainsmokers, Lana Del Rey—my favorite #sweatsesh songs!

Tour Cycle Studio, 860 Tchoupitoulas St., New Orleans, 504.412.8111, [tourcyclestudio.com](http://tourcyclestudio.com)