

GuyFolkFest.org

Celebrating Our Cultural Heritage

Symposium 2003

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THE SYMPOSIUM

See details of the program [here](#)

CELEBRATING OUR MUSICAL HERITAGE Symposium 2003 Celebrating Our Musical Heritage!

MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE

1650 Bedford Street, Brooklyn NY 11225

(Co-sponsored: The Caribbean Research Center, Medgar Evers)

[for directions, please click here](#)

SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 2003

FROM 10.00 A.M. – 6.00 P.M.

MISSION:

To organize an event that would contribute to the appreciation of the history and direction of Guyanese music.

OBJECTIVES:

Specifically, the symposium will :

- Support the thrust of Guyana Folk Festival 2003
- Identify, discuss and demonstrate the various genres of music evident in Guyana during the 20th century.
- Explore the role of radio in diffusing music and promoting Guyanese talent.
- Isolate and discuss the stylistic and other musical contributions of Guyanese popular music.
- Collect materials for use in various forms of dissemination/publication in the popular press (The Guyana Folk magazine); the academic press; support scholarly research; storage in the Caribbean Collection of the University of Guyana; and for immediate use in radio and television programming
- Showcase current trends in Guyanese music.

INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO:

• Dr. Dawn Arno • Mr. Daniel Ainsworth • Dr. Deryck Bernard • Mr. Rudy Bishop • Dr. Patricia Smith-Cambridge • Mr. Nesbit Chhangur • Mr. Wrickford Dalgetty • Mr. John

Click for other years:

- [Symposium 2004](#)
- [Symposium 2005](#)
- [Symposium 2006](#)
- [Symposium 2007](#)

Upcoming Events

Vendors

Drepaul • Dr. Michael Gilkes • Mr. Eddy Grant • Mr. Terry Gajraj • Dr. Kean Gibson • Dr. Paul Gilroy • Mr. Bobby Hunter • Mr. Loris Holland • Ms Phyllis Jackson • Dr. Chico Khan • Mrs Margaret Lawrence • Dr. Joycelynne Loncke • Mrs, Mildred Lowe • Dr. Ray Luck • Mr. Ivor Lynch • Mr. Hugh Sam • Mr. Ray Seales • Mr. Maurice Serrao • Mr Joslyn Small • Ms Pritha Singh • Mr. James Sydney • Mr. Maxy Wallerson

The Symposium will provide a site for the display and sales of music -- CDs, tapes, DVDs of participating artistes.

Sales will take place during the intermissions: 8:00 am - 10:00am and from 12:30 pm - 1:15pm

All artistes who intend to offer their music for sale are responsible for delivering their items to Dawn Moore-Bonnett at Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn by 7:00 am on August 30, 2003. Those participating are requested to provide itemized lists of their products showing in separate columns, item title and unit price.

Because of the nature of the event, items will be sold for rounded prices, e.g., \$5.00, \$10.00, etc. And not \$4.99 and \$9.99, etc

Donation:

10% of proceeds of each sale is to be donated to the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College.

For further information contact Dawn Moore-Bonnett at 516-481-9395

Program

SYMPOSIUM THEME - Celebrating our Musical Heritage

Co-Sponsors

- The Caribbean Research Center, Medgar Evers College/CUNY, NY
- The Department of African American Studies, Ohio University, NY

Saturday, August 30, 2003

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Medgar Evers College/City University of New York
1650 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Rationale

Music has had an important place in Guyanese life throughout the ages. It has connected us with the wider world. Guyanese musicians have acquired international fame and recognition. Through many genres of music, Guyanese composers have spoken to our aspirations and our disappointments, reflected on our landscape, documented our achievements and celebrated our multicultural heritage. Despite ground breaking work by Guyanese music scholars, the story of music in Guyana is still relatively unknown. Our musicians are passing on and with them important memories. Given the importance of this aspect of our heritage, the Guyana Folk Festival Committee is dedicating Guyana Folk Festival 2003 to the exploration and celebration of our musical heritage.

Guyana Folk Festival Statement on Use of Copyrighted Material

Guyana Folk Festival (GFF) is a Not For Profit entity committed to the preservation, propagation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the people of Guyana. In furtherance of this effort and its related activities, GFF will from time to time solicit contributions from various artists reflecting the rich mosaic of Guyana. GFF is resolute in its commitment to respect the intellectual property rights of all contributors to GFF sponsored activities.

GFF will in all instances of commercial use of contributors' works seek to negotiate reasonable compensation for the contributing artists. In other instances of non-commercial use where GFF uses, adapts, translates, modifies and/or distributes the contributions of artists or any parts thereof in furtherance of its goals, GFF will endeavor to ensure that such use constitutes "Fair Use" of such copyrighted material as provided for in Section 107 of Title 17 of the United States Code.

The Symposium Committee 2003

- Dr. Vibert Cambridge
- Dr. Aubrey Bonnett
- Dr. Juliet Emanuel

Guyana Folk Festival 2003 Team joins the members of the Symposium Committee in acknowledging the generosity and cooperation of Dr. Edison O. Jackson, President, Medgar Evers College/CUNY and members of his administration in the realization of this symposium. Further, the Guyana Folk Festival Team and the Committee Members of Symposium 2003 acknowledge the commitment of the Caribbean Research Center at Medgar Evers College to the preservation, propagation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the region and, in this instance, the music of Guyana. With the Committee Members of the Symposium 2003, *Celebrating Our Musical Heritage*, the Guyana Folk Festival Team is grateful for the sponsorship of The Caribbean Research Center.

In addition, the Guyana Folk Festival and the members of the Symposium Committee 2003 appreciate the sponsorship of the Department of African American Studies, Ohio University, Ohio. This level of involvement has permitted not only the exciting exploration of a vital genre but has contributed immensely to the preservation of Guyanese musical history.

Catering: Mrs. Karen Stoute

8:00 am

Front of Auditorium: Registration.

Registration continues throughout symposium.

Registrar: Dr. Juliet Emanuel.

Associate Registrar: Dr. Yvonne McCallum-Peters

8:00 - 9:00 am

Front of Auditorium

ONE STOP MUSIC SHOP

Coordinator: Dawn Moore Bonnett

8:00 - 10:00 am

Breakfast available

Music at Breakfast

Mr. Moses Josiah, the internationally acclaimed performer on the Musical Saw.

THE AUDITORIUM

9:00 - 9:30 am

Welcome: Dr. Vibert Cambridge, Coordinator Guyana Folk Festival, Symposium 2003.

Introductions and acknowledgments.

Remarks: The Consul General of Guyana, The Honorable Brentnol Evans.

Logistics: Dr. Aubrey Bonnett, Committee Member, Guyana Folk Festival Symposium, 2003.

Accompanist: Dr. Patricia Cambridge.

Selections: Kurleigh, Kevin and Kenrick Hunt.

THE SESSIONS

All symposium sessions are held in the auditorium.

All sessions allow for a question and answer/discussion period with the audience.

Morning Sessions**Session #1**

9:30 - 10:50 am

Twentieth Century genres of Music in Guyana: Beginnings and Developments.

Panel Chair

Dr. Ivelaw Griffith, Florida International University

Panelists

Seorie Autar, Singer, Scholar, Folk Arts: *Traditional Women's Songs.*

Serena Hewitt, New York City Board of Education: *Of the Folk and Other Forms of Music in Guyana: a Report on Church and Schools.*

Dr. Kean Gibson, University of the West Indies: *The Social Meanings Of Kwe-Kwe Songs in Guyana.*

Terry Gajraj, musician: *Chutney as a form of expression in the evolution of music in Guyana.*

Billy Pilgrim, former Director of Music, Department of Culture, Guyana: *Musical Trends in Guyana during the Twentieth Century.*

Session #2

11:00 am - 12:20 pm

Our People, Our Music: Discussion and Performance

Moderator

Roopnarine Persaud, poet and lyricist

Panelists

Dr. Patricia Cambridge, Ohio University: *Premiere: My Native Land: An arrangement for solo piano.*

Introduced by Terry Holder, Former General Manager, Guyana Broadcasting Service.

Ramesh Kalicharran, CEO, Kaligroup; music historian: *Our music in this land: as the youth see it: Tassa as an evolving idiom.*

Mildred Lowe: Former Director of Culture, Guyana: *Guyana Folk Music*

Performance: the last Forty Years.

Taj Moteelall, Poet, President: Rajkumari Cultural Center: *Related Fields.: Poetry, Hip Hop and other Urban Rhythms.* Dr. Maurice St. Pierre, Morgan State University: *The Nexus of Poetry and Music during the Anti Colonial Struggle.*

12:20 - 12:30 pm

PREMIERE: IS WE TING: Music Orchids For You with an introduction by Ron Lammy Member, Guyana Folk Festival Planning Committee and Creative Director, PanOnTheWeb.com.

12:30 - 1:25 pm

LUNCH

Front of Auditorium: **ONE STOP MUSIC SHOP**

This shop closes at 1:30 pm

This shop re-opens during Break @ 4:25 pm

Music at Lunch Time

Is We Ting continues.

Terry Gajraj

The Ex-Police Male Voice Choir

The Tassa Band

The Brothers Hunt

TRIBUTES TO THE STEEL BAND PROFESSIONAL

Video recording of greetings to Roy Geddes, who for the past fifty years has been one of Guyana's leading steel band professionals begins.

1:30 - 1:35 pm Logistics: Dr. Juliet Emanuel

1:35 - 1:40 pm

Prelude: *Selection*, Ken Corsbie.

Afternoon Sessions

Session #3

1:40- 3:00 pm

Roundtable: *Guyana's Radio at the Confluence of Music and Folk Culture: A community Conversation.*

Moderator

Dr. Calvin Brutus, University of Wisconsin

Participants

Dr. Keith Proctor

James Sydney

Terry Holder

Angela Massiah

Guyana Broadcasters North America

with taped interviews and commentaries: Bertie Chancellor, Pat Cameron and others

3:05 - 4:25 pm

Session #4

Popular Music in Guyana: the Icons, their Styles, their Works

Panel Chair

Kojo Nnamdi, Host: Kojo Nnamdi Show, WAMU(an NPR affiliate, Washington, D.C.);
Host Evening Edition, WHUT(a PBS affiliate, Washington, D.C.).

Panelists

Dr. Deryck Bernard, University of Guyana: *Composing in the Guyanese Folk Tradition: the works of Gerrard, Hemerding, and Phillips.*

John "Slingshot" Drepaal, singer, composer, arranger: *Guyanese Music from May 26, 1956 - May 26, 1966: An Indo - Berbician Perspective.*

Romanee Kalicharran, Tradition bearer: Indo-Caribbean Music/Dance: *Taan.*

Maurice Serrao, Member of The Ramblers, Executive: St. Stanislaus Alumni;

Member Executive Group: Last Lap Lime, Toronto: *Pre-Rambling and Transitions: Assessing the Contributions of Specific String Bands to the Music of Guyana.*

4: 25- 4:45 pm

Break

Refreshments.

Recording of Tributes to Roy Geddes continues.

ONE STOP MUSIC SHOP

This shop closes @ 4:40 pm sharp for the day.

All artistes must pick up their remaining merchandise from Dawn Moore Bonnett at this time.

4:45 - 4:50 pm

Alexander Douglas, Scholar and Jazz Musician, U.K: *Video: Considerations of the Musical Heritage of Guyana.*

5:00- 6:20 pm

Session # 5

Strategies and Tactics: The Music and Musicians of Guyana: the Global Dialectic.

Discussant

Dr. Yvonne McCallum-Peters

Panelists

Loris Holland, Grammy and Emmy winning composer, arranger and producer: *Making it in the International Music Industry*

Reggie Paul, musician: *Recording and the Live Performance Sector: getting started; preparation and promotion.*

Mahadeo Ramprashad: CEO, Savart Inc.,: *Difficulties Producing And Promoting Guyanese Musicians.*

James Canning, Grammy nominee: *Perspectives of the Contemporary Music Industry.*

6:20 - 7:00 pm

JAM SESSION

Announcers: Members of the Committee

Participants

The Tassa Band

The Police Male Voice Choir

Terry Gajraj

Alexander Douglas

Dave Martins

Keith Waithe

Keith Proctor

All Guyanese musicians are invited
All voices are encouraged

(Some of these details are subject to modification)

GUYANA FOLK FEST

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