

# Georgia Geechee Gullah Shouters



**The Georgia Geechee Gullah Shouters**, formerly known as the Darien Shouters, is a ten-member group from the community of Darien located in McIntosh County, Georgia that performs for and educates communities about the Gullah/Geechee folk history. Each member of the Shouters is of Georgia Gullah/Geechee ancestry. This includes their manager Griffin Lotson, who has traced his ancestral roots from pre-slavery Africa. Elizabeth Temple, one of the original members of the Shouters, was born in 1934 and learned the “shout” when she was a child. Believing that people without a history are a lost generation, the group was organized in 1992 with the overall goal of preserving and protecting the priceless Gullah/Geechee heritage.

The Shouters are committed to embracing, preserving, and protecting the historical and cultural heritage of the Georgia Gullah legacy through song and dance for the benefit of present and future generations. As described by the New Georgia Encyclopedia, the history of shouters coincides with the history of African-Americans, antebellum and post antebellum Georgia into the present. The Southeastern Ring Shout is probably the oldest surviving African American performance tradition on the North American continent. This compelling fusion of counterclockwise dance like movement, the call-and-response singing, the percussion of hand clapping and the stick beating of a drum-like rhythm on a wooden floor is clearly African in its origins. The ring shout, originally and presently, affirms oneness with the Spirit and ancestors as well as community cohesiveness. The Southeastern Ring Shout continues to be performed throughout African American communities on Georgia's coast and also many the coastal islands of the Southeastern United States.

**Bookings:** Griffin Lotson *Manager*

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4

**Fees:** Performances | Demonstrations | Educational | Community Outreach \$200 to \$1,000

**Demonstration | Performance Specifications:** Space Dimension: 20' x 20' • Audio: 1 to 3 microphones • Lighting: general