

McIntosh County Shouters



www.shoutforfreedom.synthasite.com

The McIntosh County Shouters is a ten-member Gullah-Geechee group that began performing professionally in 1980. They have educated and entertained audiences around the United States with the *ring shout*, a compelling fusion of counterclockwise dance-like movement, call-and-response singing, and percussion of hand clapping and a stick beating a drum-like rhythm on a wooden floor. African in its origins, the ring shout affirms oneness with the Spirit and ancestors as well as community cohesiveness.

Each performance begins with an introduction by Bettye Ector to provide background information about the ring shout from early slavery through Emancipation. The ring shout was first described in detail during the Civil War by outside observers in coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia. Its practice continued well into the 20th Century, even as its influence was resounding in later forms like spiritual, jubilee, gospel and elements of jazz, but by the late 20th century, the ring shout itself was presumed to have died out until its rediscovery in McIntosh County in 1980; thus, the beginning of the McIntosh County Shouters.

The McIntosh County Shouters were awarded the NEA National Heritage Fellowship in 1993, and were selected as Producers of Distinction/Founding Member for the Georgia Made Georgia Grown Program in 2009. Their performances include the National Black Arts Festival, Festival of American Folklife, Smithsonian Institute, World Music Institute, Festival of Georgia Folklife and Sound Legacies at Emory University. The group has been featured in magazines and documentaries such as Oxygen's *Who Needs Hollywood* and HBO's *Unchained Memories*.

Bookings: Carletha Sullivan *Shouter*

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Fees: (varies with performance)

Performance Specifications: Stage Dimension: 20' x 20' • Stage Set: podium • Audio: 1 to 3 microphones • Lighting: general