

# CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS

www.carolinachocolatedrops.com



Photo courtesy of Andrew Dies

(l-r)

**Justin Robinson**

*fiddle, banjo, voice*

**Rhiannon Giddens**

*banjo, fiddle, voice*

**Dom Flemons**

*guitar, banjo, harmonica,  
jug, snare, voice*

**“...belongs to an era when music was not something to be sold but something from the soul.”**

*-- Jeff Tamarkin, All Music Guide*

## The Band

Think of traditional African-American music, and the genres that come to mind are gospel, blues and jazz; few people think of old-time string band music. But the antebellum combination of banjo and fiddle used to be a tradition in most black rural communities in the South. **The Carolina Chocolate Drops**, a band of three young and talented musicians, are recognized as leading the revival of this venerable musical tradition. **The Carolina Chocolate Drops** honed their skills under the tutelage of octogenarian fiddler Joe Thompson, a North Carolinian said to be the last black traditional string band player. Thompson, who grew up playing at barn dances, “frolics” and corn shuckings, wound up performing in venues across the country, including Carnegie Hall.

Dom Flemons’ guitar and jug root the band in an infectious rhythm, and he plays harmonica for additional melody. Banjo and fiddle player Rhiannon Giddens became inspired by old-time music when she fell into contra dancing after graduating from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. Justin Robinson is the band’s primary fiddler. Trained in classical violin, he became interested in bluegrass and old-time fiddle music, as well as the fife and drum tradition of African-Americans in the Deep South.

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## Places Performed

The Birchmere (Alexandria, VA) • The Roxy (Atlanta, GA) • Charleston Music Hall (Charleston, SC) • Neighborhood Theatre (Charlotte, NC) • The Orange Peel (Asheville, NC) • Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival (Silk Hope, NC) • National Folk Festival (Richmond, VA) • Bristol Roots & Rhythm Festival (Bristol, TN) • National Jug Band Jubilee (Louisville, KY) • The Handlebar (Greenville, SC)

## Press Quotes

“The Carolina Chocolate Drops can really play, their music is electrifying!” -- Taj Mahal

“You start seeing things in sepia tones and even though the music’s being played right in front of you, you expect to hear crackles and hisses as if the sounds were being torn from a salvaged 78.” -- Rick Cornell, *The Independent*

“...belongs to an era when music was not something to be sold but something from the soul.” -- Jeff Tamarkin, *All Music Guide*



Photo courtesy of David Tousley

“The vocals echo the hillbilly feel of the music but the real thrill... lies within the magnificent fiddle, banjo and jug (yes jug) playing...the Carolina Chocolate Drops evoke the late nineteenth century with the same impeccable skill that will make you wonder whether they come right out of David Milch’s *Deadwood*.” -- David Schultz, *Earvolution* (on-line)

“The Carolina Chocolate Drops breathe new life into old traditions. Informed by broad cultural knowledge and ceaseless curiosity, these young musicians extend the rich musical legacy of the North Carolina Piedmont, with all the technique, vitality, and depth of character needed to put it across. What more could you ask for in a string band?” -- Marshall Wyatt, Founder, *Old Hat Records*

## Contact

### Management

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### Exclusive World-Wide Booking

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