



Carolina Chocolate Drops play BC

By Park Elliot Baker
Staff Writer

Grammy Award winning group "The Carolina Chocolate Drops" will perform at BC Thursday, April 14. The group won Best Traditional Folk Album for their release "Genuine Negro Jig."

Formed in 2005, the band's moniker is a nod to the Tennessee Chocolate Drops, three black brothers who played together in the 1930's.

Dom Flemons, Rhiannon Giddens and Justin Robinson met online in a Yahoo! Group called "Black Banjo: Then and Now." The three committed themselves to traveling to string legend Joe Thompson's home in Cedar Grove, NC every Thursday to play with and learn from him. They have even coaxed him on stage a few times. Thompson is revered as one of the few post-slave era blacks to keep the traditional

African string culture alive.

As Robinson puts it, "It's something you can't get any other way than by learning at the feet of somebody who's been doing it for a very, very long time, who's been completely immersed in something."

Having seen them before, I can assure the Brevard College campus that they are in for a treat. People were packed into the Orange Peel like sardines. More people were at that show than a few international headliners, and their performances were incredible. Folk music met the modern beat box in a mix of banjos, mandolins, harmonicas, jugs and kazoos.

Giddens' voice has the deep resonance of a much older woman, and her anima shines in the bands rendition of "Hit 'Em Up Style," a Blu Cantrell original. She is not the lead singer for the group however. Robinson gives up the beatbox that adds modern flare to "Hit 'Em Up Style" and picks up the mandolin in "Cornbread and Butterbeans," a cheerful homage to southern culture, where he sings "Cornbread and Butterbeans and you across the table/eating

beans and makin' love as long as I am able...."

The Carolina Chocolate Drops are an eclectic foray to keep the traditions of Africa alive. Jovial as the music is, we can not forget that the trio from Raleigh, North Carolina embodies a culture that was robbed, and its language suppressed. Anyone who has an appreciation for the foundations that support our modern society will enjoy their performance.

"We are the first and foremost entertainers and musicians," Giddens emphasizes. "The other stuff enriches, deepens the experience. If you can't enjoy the music on the surface, we aren't doing our job. That's been the problem with some historical-based music. Sometimes it feels like a lesson injected rather than just something to be enjoyed."

The Drops released two independent albums, "Dona Got A Ramblin' Mind" (2006) and "Heritage" (2008), before signing with Nonesuch, and began work on "Genuine Negro Jig."

Tickets are \$20 to \$25 and are available online at www.etix.com. The show starts at 7 p.m.

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SGA E-board runs unopposed

SGA passed an amendment Tuesday forgoing elections if all executive board positions are unopposed.

Voting scheduled for April 14 through the 18 is tentatively canceled, as no executive board position is being contended. Lucy Matthews will continue to serve as SGA president, Mark Moseley will take over as vice-president, and Dorothy Buff will step in as treasurer. More on these students can be found on page two.

Secretary and Speaker of the Clubs are both currently vacant positions.

A question and answer session with next year's executive board members will be held in the Reserve Dining Room on Wednesday, April 13 at 6 p.m. All students are encouraged to attend and voice their questions and concerns.

At the next SGA meeting, Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m., SGA will host a question and answer session concerning the BC presidential search committee with two senior consultants at Academic Search, Inc., the firm hired to conduct the search for BC's next president. Students

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who wish to voice their questions and concerns about the search should do so here. Questions may be submitted in advance to SGA president, Lucy Matthews.

SGA will hold a forum with Joseph Brown, Director of Facilities at Brevard, and Jason Djuren, Director of Community Living, on Tuesday April 19 at 7 p.m. Students will have a chance to voice their concerns about maintenance and housing at BC to Brown and Djuren and vice-versa.