

"Creole Rock is a fusion of Guyanese Folk Music, Creole Culture and Dialect, and Punk Rock n' Roll."

Gavin Mendonca is a Guyanese Folk/Rock Musician, born in the heart of Georgetown on Christmas Eve 1991, and in 2011, Gavin found his calling: Punk Rock! As one of a very few 'Punk Rockers' in Guyana, he made a name for himself in the local rock community as well as on the National scene, signing with local label Kross Kolor Records. Since January 2014, Gavin is also the host of his self-produced radio show – Radio Rock 'n' Roll - bringing rock music to a wider audience, and allows a platform for Rock Music from all around the Caribbean/Region to be heard on Guyana's National Radio Station. He is also an advocate for more local content on Guyanese Radio; as well as one of the directors of the annual 'Rupununi Music and Arts Festival'.

Gavin has represented Guyanese Culture multiple times in Trinidad, as well as Suriname, Colombia and Dominican Republic, the UK, US, China and Dubai. Most recently - he represented Guyana at Ethno USA 2022- a cultural exchange program that brings musicians from around the world together to create and perform together, followed by Ethno Sweden 2023.

Also a composer, he has written many songs that are patriotic and tell a story about being Guyanese, such as 'City By De Tides' (a song about his home town) and 'The Great



Rebellion' (a song about Cuffy, and the 1763 Berbice Slave Rebellion) and the 2015 Christmas Hit 'Cause Is Christmas (in Guyana)'. He is also currently the bassist of local Heavy Metal band - Feed The Flames, and has also served as the Guitarist for NYC based Rock band 'Mindfield Playground' in 2023. He has managed to fuse Guyanese Culture, which is truly unique, with Rock 'n' Roll, creating an entirely new sub-genre of Rock Music – Creole Rock. Gavin's main aim is to contribute to the preservation of Guyanese Culture and Heritage through works.

His first solo album, titled 'CREOLE ROCK: THE BEGINNING', was released in April 2016. In May 2018, Gavin released his first Short Film - 'How To Build A Tree House' - which incorporated the use of Patamuna Language and Folklore, and was filmed at Kaieteur Falls and it's environs. Gavin has teamed up with leader of 'Buxton Fusion Drumming School' - Marlon 'Chucky' Adams and the two have embarked on a mission to 'Folk It Up' - an effort to preserve Folk Music in modern society. The duo released their first album together in 2019 - GAVIN & CHUCKY: FOLK IT UP VOL 1 while releasing Volume 2 in December, 2022. The duo have also recently released a series of performances in the Rupununi which can be viewed on Youtube. The duo just released Folk It Up Vol. 3 which was recorded live in the Iwokrama Rainforest. Gavin is currently Visit his official website at www.creolerock.com for more information.

Notable Performances in Guyana:

- State House Christmas Cheer (Dec 2022)
- Rupununi Music and Arts Festival Launch (British High Commissioner's Residence, May 2022)
- U.S Embassy Celebrate Cultural Heritage (Ambassador's Residence, Sept 2021)
- Office of the First Lady 'Chari-Tea' Event (State House, March 2021)
- Spirit of Christmas (State House, Dec 2020)
- Inaugural Rupununi Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony (Lethem, Nov 2019)
- Rupununi Music and Arts Festival: GT Connection 2 (Nov 2019)
- Emancipation Day Celebrations (Aug 2019)
- Timehri Film Festival Opening (June 2019)
- Hard Rock Cafe (June 2019)
- MovieTowne Guyana (June 2019)
- KFC Link Show 34 (March 2019)
- Mashramani Folk Night (February 2019)
- Joss Stone live at Theatre Guild (January 2019)
- Launch of GGMC Mining Week 2018 (August, 2018)
- Fete De La Musique (June 2018)
- Harmony Village 2018 (March 2018)
- 3rd Annual Rupununi Music and Arts Festival (Manari Ranch, Lethem, February 2018)
- Launch of Radio Bartica (Bartica, Guyana, November 2017)
- Rupununi Music and Arts Festival: GT Connection (March 2017)
- Coconut Festival (Guyana, October 2016)
- Guyana Golden Jubilee Concert (Guyana, May 2016)
- 2nd Annual Rupununi Music and Arts Festival (October, 2015)

Notable Virtual Performances:

- Gavin & Chucky live at Canopy Walkways, Iwokrama Forest (April 2022)
- Bankra Caribbean Culture Festival Online (June 2021)
- Nottingham Global Roots Festival (April 2021)
- Muzikstan Online (March 2021)
- Folk Alliance International Unlocked Showcase (February 2021)

Notable International Performances:

- Official Showcase Artist at Your Roots Are Showing Folk Conference (Ireland, Jan 2024)
- Roots and Ruckus Festival at Jalopy Theatre (NYC, Dec 2023)
- Guyana Folk Festival (New York, August 2023)
- Ethno Sweden (Sweden, June 2023)
- American Music Abroad Academy Colombia (Colombia, May 2023)
- Bridgetown International Arts Festival (Barbados, March 2023)
- Ethno USA (North Carolina, Oct 2022)
- Guyana Cultural Association of NY Annual Folk Festival (New York, Sept 2022)
- Summer Hoot Festival (New York, Aug 2022)
- Guyana Day (Florida, May 2022)
- Folk Alliance International Private Showcases (Kansas City, May 2022)
- Guyana's 52nd Republic Anniversary Celebrations (New York, February 2022)
- Braata Productions Christmas Grand Market (New York, December 2021)
- <u>Dubai Expo</u> (Dubai, October 2021)
- Braata Folk Singers in Concert (New York, September 2021)
- Guyana's Republic Jubilee Celebrations (New York, February 2020)
- Full Sail University Live On Air (Orlando, February 2020)
- Folk Alliance International (New Orleans, January 2020)
- Folk It Up: UWI (Trinidad, October 2019)
- International Horticultural Expo 2019 (Beijing, China, September 2019)

- Guyana Folk Festival (New York, August 2019)
- Skyy Rock Festival V (Trinidad, April 2019)
- 13th International Fair of Embassies (Brasilia, Brazil, November 2018)
- Full Sail University (Florida, September 2018)
- Guyana Folk Festival (New York, August/September 2018)
- Launch of University of Guyana's UK Alumni Association (London, August 2018)
- WOMAD Open Mic 2018 (UK, July 2018)
- Skyy Rock Festival 2018 (Trinidad, April 2018)
- Quelonios Festival (Dominican Republic, January 2018)
- Srefidensi Rock Fest (Suriname, November 2017)
- Skyy Rock Festival 2017 (Trinidad, April 2017)
- LocalPalooza (Trinidad, July 2013)
- Unkies Rock The Guianas (Suriname, September 2012)

Other affiliations:

- Guitarist in New York based Rock Band Mindfield Playground (2022-2023)
- Founder of 'Sugar-Caned' the first ever Inter-Caribbean Rock band (2019 Present)
- Recording Artiste at Kross Kolor Records (2012 Present)
- Programme Director of Rupununi Music and Arts Festival (2015 Present)
- Founding member of the Guyana Music Network (2014)
- Bassist of Guyanese Heavy Metal Band Feed The Flames (2011 Present)
- Independent Radio Broadcaster at National Communications Network (2014 Present)

Other Notable Accomplishments:

- Winner of 'Global Rockstar Artist of the Month' (October 2016)
- The first Guyanese to participate in 'CirculArt' the largest Music Summit in Latin America, (Colombia, November 2017)
- UK debut at WOMAD (England, July 2018)
- US debut at Guyana Cultural Association's annual 'Guyana Folk Festival' (NYC, Aug 2018)
- Recipient of the GCA Award from the Guyana Cultural Association of NYC for outstanding contribution to the preservation of Guyanese Folk Music (NYC, Aug 2023)
- Guitarist for Off-Broadway Musical Brighter Than The Sun (NYC, Jan 2024)

Discography:

- Kross Kolor Records' Christmas With Us Vol 2. December 2016
- Creole Rock: The Beginning April 2016
- Kyk-Over-Al April 2017 (Feed The Flames)
- Hung Up On Your Cross EP December 2017
- Gavin & Chucky: Folk It Up Vol 1 August 2019
- Punks and Pirates April 2021
- Creole Rock: Punk Up De Folk Vol. 1 February 2022
- The Other Side of Fear July 2022 (Mindfield Playground)
- Gavin & Chucky: Folk It Up Vol 2 August 2022
- Gavin & Chucky: Folk It Up Vol 3 Live in the Iwokrama Rainforest Jan 2024

Links to Creole Rock on the World Wide Web:

- Official Website www.creolerock.com
- Interview on Good Mornin' Barbados (Jan 13, 2023)
- Performing 'Small Days' at LEAF Festival in North Carolina 2022
- Interview with Dubai ONE TV Dubai Expo Oct 2021
- Folk Unlocked Official Virtual Showcase 2021
- Watch Music Video/Short Film 'How To Build A Tree House'
- Purchase debut album 'Creole Rock: The Beginning'
- Stream 'Folk It Up Vol. 1' on Spotify
- Music Video for 'The Great Rebellion'
- Music Video for 'Gangamani'
- Interview with MTV News Update promoting the Rupununi Music and Arts Festival: GT Connection
- Interview with Emerald Digital Production after my trip to Colombia for 'CirculArt'

Links to Articles:

SAE Institute NYC Student Gavin Mendonca Building Cultural Bridges Through Music - 2023

Gavin & Chucky - Championing Identity Is Their Premise - Cuba Plus Magazine - 2023

Gavin Mendonca at Ethno USA in North Carolina - Chronicle Newspaper - Oct 2022

Mendonca Calls for Greater Support for Local Creatives - MTV News Update - May 2022

Promoting Guyana Through Music & Film - Chronicle Newspaper - Jan 2022

Guyanese Folk Music in Dubai - Stabroek Newspaper - Oct 2021

'Everything Gon Be Alright' is an Affirmation - Stabroek Newspaper - May 2021

Folk Ambassador returns to Punk Rock roots - Stabroek Newspaper- April 2020

Gavin & Chucky: Bringing Folk Music Back - Chronicle Newspaper - Feb 2020

Mendonca takes Folk It Up Tour to the US - Stabroek Newspaper - Feb 2020

Gavin Mendonca Folk It Up in T&T - Chronicle Newspaper - October 2019

Folk Music in Guyanese Society with Gavin and Chucky - Guyana Chronicle - June 2019

Gavin Mendonca rocked 2018 with tours - Stabroek News - December 2018

<u>Gavin Mendonca Takes Guyanese Culture International - Chronicle Newspaper - August</u> 2018

Creole Rock heads to the UK - Chronicle Newspaper - July 2018

Sharing the stage with Machel Montano - DPI - May 2018

<u>Gavin Mendonca represents Guyana at largest Latin American music festival - Chronicle Newspaper - November 2017</u>

'I wanted to be a Guyanese Rock Musician' - Pepperpot/Chronicle - May 2017



Performing with Feed The Flames at Skyy Rock Festival, Trinidad 2017



Performing in the crowd at Skyy Rock Festival, Trinidad 2017



Teaching 'Small Days' to musicians from around the world at Ethno USA 2022 in North Carolina

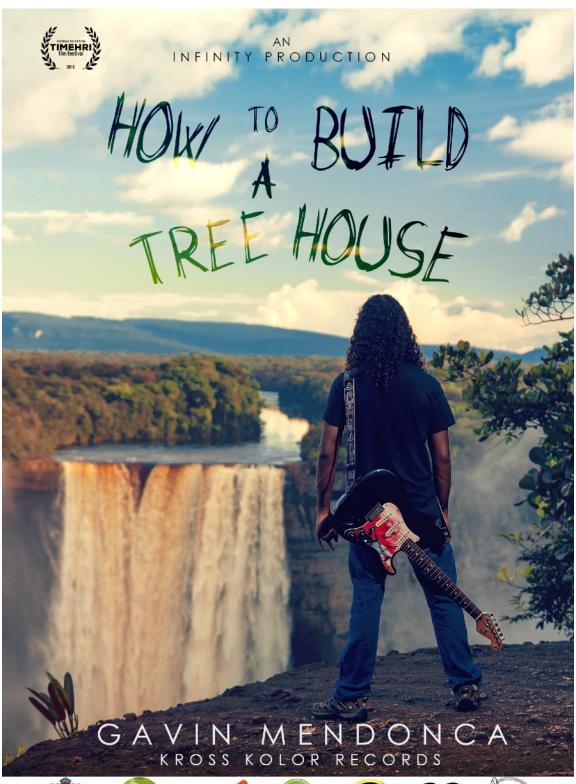


Performing with Ethno USA at LEAF Festival 2022, North Carolina



Gavin and Chucky in the Iwokrama Rainforest





















Gavin Mendonca performing down the Avenue of Main St, Georgetown, for 'Harmony Village'



Performing with Legendary Guyanese Flautist - Keith Waithe



Gavin and Chucky at The Courtyard on Robb St



Shooting a video with Grammy Award winner - Joss Stone

SUGAR-CANED



The band's name come from the shared history of each member's country, and pays respect to our fore-fathers and to our development as nations. The Sugar Cane Industry more or less paved the way for us all. The major goal of the band is to set an example of Unity and Camaraderie cross the Caribbean Rock Scene, and to also prove that absolutely anything is possible once you believe in yourself and dedicate the time and energy.

Sugar-Caned is the first ever 'Inter-Caribbean' Rock Band, featuring members from Guyana, Trinidad and Suriname. It was put together by Gavin as a special project for Skyy Rock Festival V, in Trinidad. The project was a huge success, also playing a show in Curepe the night before Skyy Rock, and then in Suriname one week later.



