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FREE MUSEUM PROGRAM EXPLORES JONKONNU HOLIDAY

African American and Afro-Caribbean celebration was unique to North Carolina, Bermuda and the Caribbean

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Nov. 18, 2021 – Join The Charlotte Museum of History on Dec. 9 for a live streamed program to learn about one of North Carolina’s most unique holiday celebrations, Jonkonnu.

With origins in Jamaica and West Africa, the holiday was one of the ways that enslaved people in 19th-century North Carolina held on to the religious and cultural traditions of their homelands. The museum’s free lunchtime program will explore the cultural and historical significance of Jonkonnu, a Christmastide tradition that tapped into African spiritual roots through a combination of costume, music and dance.

Sharon Bryant and Keith McClease from Tryon Palace in New Bern will join the museum for the program. Bryant is African American outreach coordinator and McClease is the garden operations supervisor at Tryon Palace, which hosts a Jonkonnu celebration annually to continue the tradition into the 21st century. McClease also is the lead drummer for Tryon Palace’s Jonkonnu celebrations and helped to revive the tradition at the historic site.

How to attend

This free program will be live streamed at noon on Thursday, Dec. 9, on the museum’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels. Sign up to get a reminder email from the museum at [charlottemuseum.org/events](https://www.charlottemuseum.org/events). A recording will be available on YouTube after the event.



About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History exists to save and share the Charlotte region's history, helping create a better understanding of the past and inspiring dialogue about the future. The museum is the steward of the 1774 Hezekiah Alexander Rock House and homesite, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. Visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). The museum is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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