

Stann Champion

RootsRockSociety Workshop

Roots Rock Society formed in late 1986 by founder and guitarist Stann Champion. It was an opportunity for him to keep his culture and heritage alive through music. With RRS, Champion wants to share his gift to bridge racial /gender differences in all age groups. The workshop discusses the foundation of roots rhythms from the African Diaspora

(Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-American). The voice is the first instrument, the drum (symbol of kings), the guitar (introduced by the Moors) descending from the drum, dance (movement) all contribute to story telling (songs).

Audience participation is encouraged for optimum understanding of how earlier cultures

are combined and interwoven into the current American culture today. These elements

can still be found in Rock, Blues, Reggae, Gospel, Calypso, Rap, Jazz, Zydeco, Salsa, Kompa, Zouk etc. Discovery of different cultures and how they intertwine helps bring about a better understanding of each other and inspires prejudice reduction.

With all these elements, roots music becomes a unique lifestyle. It is shared throughout

our community with all ages, sex and races - this process is edutainment (Educational and

Entertainment). The result informs and inspires everyone to refocus on elements that are

refreshing and close to the heart.

This is something needed for our younger generation as well as uninformed adults. No matter how old you are, you are still somebody's child.