

Meet Quiana!



Hey y'all!

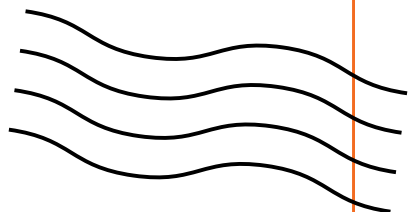
My name is Quiana and I'm from the Low Country of South Carolina. My enslaved ancestors were brought here to work on plantations growing rice and other crops. The Gullah culture they created is one of the most authentic African cultures in America today. I've performed on television and all over the world—including near the North Pole! I've even won a Grammy Award! Can you believe it? I cannot wait to meet you and share my musical culture with you. We're gonna have a ranky tanky time!

Ai gladdi fa see oona. (Hope to see you soon.)

Quiana



Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019



Shrimp 'n' grits

Sweetgrass Baskets

Quiana

We asked Quiana ...

What are some of your favorite childhood memories?

I grew up right next door to my grandparents on 20 acres of land that my family has owned for several generations. I loved going out in the fields with my grandma to pick vegetables, play with the chickens, make mud pies, and play with the bucket of worms we collected for fish bait.

What are some special Gullah foods?

My ancestors grew a special kind of rice that they brought with them from Africa as enslaved people, and we still grow and eat a lot of rice! Living near

the coast we also eat lots of seafood. Crab rice and okra soup are two popular foods. Shrimp and grits is my favorite!

How did you become a musician?

I started singing with my family at church when I was seven. Growing up, I thought I had two choices for my future: I would either work at the grocery store or work in the tobacco fields. Then when I was 15, a musician named Quentin—who is still in my band today!—invited me to perform with him at a weekly show. That changed my life, and let me know that I could grow up to be a musician!