

South

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► LLOYD "KIDSYC"
HAROLD

SAVANNAH rock CITY

SAVANNAH'S MUSIC SCENE IS HEATING UP, AND THESE
ARE THE MUSICIANS THAT ARE FUELING THE FIRE

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Today, beats and chords mingle down Savannah streets alongside tourists' carriages and warm summer currents. A city once rife with musical goings-on, Savannah is again working overtime to appease a populace demanding, with revitalized enthusiasm, the fever and authenticity of the live show.

The Hostess City's recommitment to being a live music destination and to cultivating a rich local music scene comes as the result of a collective push by area venues, promoters, musicians, and concertgoers. But it is, perhaps, the local musicians who carry the weight of the load—playing night after night to crowds or empty rooms, even after a full day of work or class—reminding the rest of us that Savannah's got talent.

KidSyc

Hometown to notable hip-hop artists Big Boi (OutKast) and DJ Lord (Public Enemy), Savannah has long held its place in the world of hip-hop. But this year, Savannah's hip-hop face got a makeover, compliments of Lloyd "KidSyc" Harold.

KidSyc is known around town for his affability, passion for music, and commitment to youth and education. With signature red cap and his unique merger of hip-hop with a live band, KidSyc was barely a year into playing together with KidSyc@Brandywine when they decidedly upstaged the overhyped national-touring Das Racist on opening night of the 2011 Savannah Stopover Music Festival. Having won the Georgia Lottery All-Access Music Search competition

in early 2011 with his band KidSyc@Brandywine, he is now known far beyond Savannah for his talent as a songwriter, rapper, and front man.

KidSyc's inaugural music video, "Fire," was recently released to great fanfare. "The 'Fire' video is taking off quite nicely," says Harold. "We've gotten almost 2000 views (between Vimeo and YouTube) since it was posted a month ago." "Fire" is off of *The Kid*, produced by Alex Goose. The video was created by Savannah Film Company Production and Meddin Studios. But the best, it seems, is yet to come. "Next up is the KidSyc@Brandywine EP release with the tracks recorded at Capitol Records," says Harold, "and a music video by Savannah Film Company for the crowd favorite 'Forever.'" [facebook.com/kidsyncmusic](https://www.facebook.com/kidsyncmusic)

Cusses

Making short work of achieving unprecedented local fame, homegrown heroes Angel Bond (vocals), Brian Lackey (drums), and Bryan Harder (guitar) will spread their sound to faraway boroughs in late summer with Cusses first-ever East Coast tour.

"We have had a blast these first few years with launching and growing the band and our sound," says Bond. "We are so grateful for the tremendous and overwhelming support of this awesome community and we are now more eager than ever to introduce Cusses to larger audiences." The band began the summer with a wildly well-received debut of new material at a graduation show at the Jinx in early June. Having recorded their first full-length album at Asheville's industry-renown Echo Mountain, with producer Dan Hannon (Manchester Orchestra), in late July, the rock trio will spend the month of August playing gigs at a slew of hip venues in Asheville, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Greenville and Charleston. Stay tuned for news of their hot album release in the fall. [facebook.com/pages/CUSSES](https://www.facebook.com/pages/CUSSES)



▶ ANGEL BOND, CUSSES

912 Music Calendar

Earlier this summer, local journalist, blogger, and music aficionado Bill Dawers announced a new music calendar plug-in for his blog, Savannah Unplugged, at billdawers.com. The calendar focuses on listing and promoting notable touring acts heading to Savannah. Stay connected to the 912 Music Calendar to ensure awareness of all Savannah music action: 912-music-calendar.billdawers.com/912-music-calendar.



▶ DARE DUKES

Dare Dukes

With an acclaimed first album under his belt, and a team of accomplished musicians behind him, Savannah's favorite acoustic musician, Dare Dukes, is releasing a new album this fall entitled *Thugs and China Dolls*. A staple Savannahian forever involved in community betterment endeavors, Dukes took a unique approach to finishing the album: he asked for help from his friends and neighbors.

In early June, Dukes reached out via e-newsletter, social media, and personal email for help in raising \$5000, a mere fraction of the cost to produce *Thugs* but an amount that would help to mix, master, release, and promote the new album. "The campaign [went] phenomenally well," says Dukes. "Tons of support from Savannah, but we even had folks in LA who bought house concerts."

But the campaign wasn't the only way Dukes got by with help from friends. In his second full-length album, he is backed by his band, the Blackstock Collection, featuring Chris VanBrackle, Blake Helton, Anna Chandler, Daniel Beauregard, Susan Falls, and Robin Sherman. Other musicians who appear on the record include members of Of Mon-

treah, TV on the Radio, and Modern Skirts.

"Jim White produced one of the songs, 'Simon Says,' and his production is gorgeous ... strings, French horn, piano, various doo-dads," explains Dukes. "We recorded mostly in Athens, but we also tracked in Brooklyn and Berlin, Germany." daredukes.com

Soap

Talk about lucky number seven. 2011 has been a big year for local band Soap. Seven years since they came together, the seven members recently celebrated the release of their debut album, *Pour Le Corps*, on the heels of their second-place win for Best Local Funk/R & B/Soul Group in *Connect Savannah's* Best of Savannah.

The Soap ensemble is made up of familiar faces: Rigel Crockett (bass), Eric Curl (rhythm guitar), Micah Goodman (drums), Antar Ellis (vocals), Joachim Kelly (vocals), Tenille Barrett (vocals), and Bill Smith (lead guitar). But anyone who has listened to their sound understands that the whole is bigger than the sum of their noteworthy parts.

Though they began as something of a garage rock band, these days Soap has soul.

(They represent on formidable covers of classics like "Corina," "Tired of Being Alone," "Rivers of Babylon," and "Superstition.") Recorded at Elevated Basement, their new album of self-penned tracks proves their credibility as songwriters, the true versatility of their sound, and their seven-man solidarity. "The reason we've been able to grow and evolve as a band is because we enjoy being with each other. The songwriting, our musical direction and skills have just fallen into place over time." thisissoap.com

