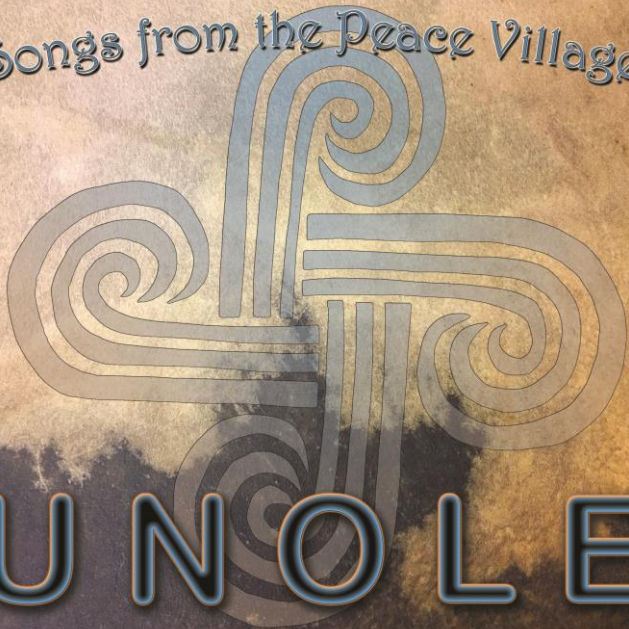


Songs from the Peace Village

UNOLE



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Credits and Thanks

Sitting around the Unole Drum:

Meli (Mary) Kitchens, drumkeeper;
Trudy Monzon; Zoey Bloom; Val Ramirez;
Maureen Garrett.

Sitting around the Unole Youth Drum: Meg Organ;

Angelina Vicencio; Ila Moncrief

Additional singer on “Morning Song”:

Kathryn Tomaeno

Sound Engineer: Cyrus Thelin

Artwork: Cover art by Maureen Garrett;
further graphic design by Rod Milstead

A lifetime of gratitude to Venerable Dhyani Ywahoo and to my drum mentors April Go Forth and Barbara Warren. Unless otherwise noted, the language of the song is Cherokee/vocables.

1. Gathering Song by Germaine Tremmel

We sing this song to welcome all beings, seen and unseen, to our gathering.

Lead: Way ha yah ho
Way ha yah ho
yah way oh hey

Chorus: Way ha yah ho
Way ha yah ho
yah way oh hey
Yah way oh hey ah wey-ah way oh hey
Yah way oh hey ah wey-ah way oh hey

Way ha yah ho Way ha yah ho
yah way oh hey
Yah way oh hey ah wey-ah way oh hey
Yah way oh hey ah wey-ah way oh hey

2. Morning Song by Dhyani Ywahoo

At the Peace Village, we sing this in the morning as the sun rises, facing east. This song comes from the Ywahoo family.

Hey ya nah hey ya hey ya hey nah hey o
Hey ya nah hey ya nah hey nah hey hey hey
Ya-ah nah heyo hey nah ya na ho
Ya-ah nah heyo hey nah ya na ho (four times, ascending)

Osda sunalei ga li i li ga
Osda sunalei ga li i li ga
Yah-ah nah heyo hey nah ya na ho
Ya-ah nay heyo hey nah ya na ho (four times, ascending)

3. Air and Water is Life – Prayer/Blessing Song by Meli Kitchens; Eastern Band language by Dr. April Lea Go Forth

After the events at Standing Rock, I said to April, “Let’s write a Cherokee song about sacred water!”

Unole nole ama
Digug(o)disgi ale nidasdiyi.

Lead: Ah hey’ya hey hey’ya hey.
2nd: Ah hey’ya hey hey’ya hey, hey way’ah hey hey’ah.

Ah hey’ya hey hey-ya hey
Hey weya hey hey’ya
Ah heya hey unole
Nole ama digugodiski
Ale nidasdiyi
Ah hey’ya hey hey’ya hey o.

Wa hey’ya hey’ya hey’ya,
Wa **hey**’ya hey’ya hey’ya.
Ya **heya hey** hey’ya hey.
Hey’**ya** hey ya hey o,
Hey’ya hey ya hey o.

4. Anduyhaun Honour Song © 2001 Brenda MacIntyre MedicineSongWoman.com

The following words in italics are from Brenda MacIntyre. As well as telling the story of the song, these words are a reminder and a teaching in how to care for these songs and the respectful way to share them with each other.

I once stayed at the Anduhyauun, the only shelter in Toronto for indigenous women and children. After that, I went to Nekenaan, their Healing Lodge, also in Toronto. Anduhyauun means "our home" in the Ojibwe language and Nekenaan means the same in Cree. It is through my experiences with getting teachings and healing at Nekenaan that I was able to find my voice and reclaim my spirit.

This is an honour song for both Anduhyauun shelter here in Toronto and their Healing Lodge, Nekenaan, and it is about whatever "our home" means to you.

This is an honour song for women, reminding us of our strength to get healing and get through our struggles to a higher place inside ourselves, gaining more confidence and self-esteem.

I sing this song as an honour song, like when a woman has achieved something special, and I also sing it to welcome people from other places. It is important to acknowledge Anduhyauun & Nekenaan when you sing this song in public. I like to tell the audience to pray for all women while I sing it, especially the women who have need of the shelter system.

VOCABLES:

Heyee ya ha away hiyo

Heyee ya ha away hiyo

Heyee ya ha wayo way hiya

Heyee ya wayo away hiya

Awaya o hiya away Anduyhaun

Heyee ya ha wayo way hiya

Heyee ya wayo away hiya

Awaya o hiya away Anduyhaun

5. Shenandoah -Meli's Cherokee version of this traditional song

In my version, this is a young Cherokee woman singing to her father, who is also the river.

Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you
E qua U we yv hey ya

U we yv hey oh hey, a ya te na e quo ni

Oh Shenandoah a gi do da
E qua U we yv hey ya

Oh Shenandoah, a gi do da
U we yv hey oh hey, a ya te na e quo ni

Oh Shenandoah, gv ge yu hi

E qua U we yv hey ya

Oh Shenandoah, gv ge yu hi
U we yv hey oh hey, a ya te na e quo ni

Oh Shenandoah, I'm bound to leave you
E qua U we yv hey ya

Oh Shenandoah, I'll not deceive you
U we yv hey oh hey, a ya te na e quo ni

6. Mountain Song by Meli Kitchens

Listen! The mountain is singing.

Lead: Way heya heya heya

2nd: Way heya heya heya

Chorus: Ha tv da s da Ha tv da s da

Dekanogi odalv

Ha tv da s da Ha tv da s da

Dekanogi odalv

7. Cherokee Fire by Barbara A. Warren

The Eternal Fire is the heart of the People

Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo – hey ya

A tsi la i go hi dv
A tsi la i go hi dv
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo – hey ya

Fire, fire, Cherokee fire.
Fire, fire, tsa la gi fire.

Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo – hey ya

A da nv do Ani yv wi ya
A da nv do Ani yv wi ya
Ya hey ya hey hey ya hey yo – hey ya

8. Joy by Barbara A. Warren

“Ulihelisdi” means both “joy” and “welcome” in Cherokee.

Lead: Ya- na na- na na- na-na hey yo
Second: Ya- na na- na na- na-na hey yo (repeat)

Lead: Ya na – hey ya na – hey ya na – hey yo
Second: Ya na – hey ya na – hey ya na – hey yo

Chorus: Ya na – hey yo
Ya na – hey yo
Ya na – hey yo, hey yo, hey yo
U-li-he-li-s-di

Ya na – hey ya na – hey ya na – hey yo
Ya na – hey yo
Ya na – hey yo
Ya na – hey yo, hey yo, hey yo, hey yo...
U-li-he-li-s-di

(Last push up, add) Hey yo

9. We're Playing Here by Meli Kitchens

Sometimes you have to stand in what you know, and claim your place to play.

Lead: Ha nv da da yo t sa ne lo ni

2nd: Ha nv da da yo t sa ne lo ni

Ha nv da da yo t sa ne lo ni

Way ah heya heya

Hey ah heya heya

Hey ah heya heya

Hey ah hey hey

10. Osda by Anna Wells

Something good is happening to me

Something good is happening to us

We are growing

We are glad

Lead: Os da na qwa li sta ne

Chorus: Os da ni gina li sta ne (2X)

Ho wa hey ya (2X)

Do tsa tu sta (2X)

Ho wa hey ya (2X)

Os da li he li ga (2X)

Ho wa hey ya (2X)

11. Nanatasis by Meli Kitchens

This song is all vocables except for the Abenaki word "Nanatasis" which means "hummingbird". I wrote this to call up the happy memories of Grandmother Nanatasis. It makes a great jingle dress song, and I can imagine Grandmother dancing around the arbor with joy.

12. Luna Llana by Margarita Nuñez Garcia

Abuelita Margarita instructed us to go out and sing this song to the full moon. This is written in Spanish and English; we have been known to add verses in other languages as well.

Luna llena luna llena
Llename llename de amor
(repeat)

Full moon full moon
Fill me with love
(repeat)

13. Beautiful Evening by Dr. April Lea Go Forth

I say this one thing: it is certainly a beautiful evening

Sudalegi nisiwea sudalegi
Doyu uwodu svhiye (vocables follow)
Doyu heya doyu uwodu svhiye
(vocables follow)

14. Salmon Song by Meli Kitchens

Melody from Dvorak's 9th Symphony

We have sung this song as ashes and belongings are being carried to the burial mound at the Peace Village.

A way oh hey a way oh hunh
A way oh hey oh hunh
Nasgiyai
Semoni
Dvganigisi
(repeat)

Going home, I'm going home
I am going home
Just as the salmon does
I am going home
(repeat)

To find more wonderful songs we've sung at the Peace Village, look at the websites of these artists and groups or find their music on the web. You are all invited to come to the Peace Village for the annual Elders Gathering on the last weekend of July and sing with us.

Brooke Medicine Eagle
Yolanda Martinez
Women of Wabano
Brenda MacIntyre
Thoz Womenz
The Mankillers
Barbara Warren
Bear Fox



Our beautiful drum, Unole, was made for us by Yolanda Martinez.

