

About these songs

Songs are a gift from Creator.

We recognize that songs may come through us, but have origins in many places and beings, so we use the phrase “I caught this song” rather than saying “I wrote this song.”

These songs were caught or composed by Unole’s drumkeeper Meli, except for Luna Llena. Some of them were composed around traditional songs like Shenandoah, or the tiny tot song that came from kids’ jump rope rhymes. Some were inspired by songs from our fabulous drum mentors Dr. April Go Forth and Barbara Warren, who have been so generous with their music. One of April’s tunes inspired the tune for Ama Agheya, and Barbara gave us a crow hop song that she had started which turned into Meli’s Crow Hop. And I am sure that many melodies are inspired by listening to our friends singing all around us. Thank you!

We sing in Tsalagi (Cherokee) because language preservation is dear to our hearts. You’ll find some translations in italics to the right side of the lyrics.

We are gifting these songs to you to sing also.



Left to Right: Regina, Gloria, Zoey, Meli, Val, Trudy, Anandha

Hand in Hand

Singers at the Unole Drum:

Meli (Mary) Kitchens, drumkeeper; Trudy Monzon; Zoey Bloom; Val Ramirez;
Regina Weldon; Anandha Ray; Gloria Cunha

Unole's mission is to lift the heart, to sing a song of joy. We have sung at pow-wows, in prisons, and for many celebrations and commemorations. We belong to a native women's drum circle that meets in Northern California.

Recorded at 25th Street Recording, Oakland, California
Chief Engineer: Gabriel Shepard
Graphic Design: Adrian Emery

Visit our website: <https://marykitchens.wixsite.com/unole>

Water Woman

Ama Agheya, or Water Woman, or Woman of the Water, is the spirit protector of the waters. The phrase "ama gvnida" means "water is life."

Lead: Agheya Ama Agheya Ama
2nd: Agheya Ama Agheya Ama Agheya Ama
Ama gvnida ama agheya hiya hiya
ama gvnida ama agheya hiya hiya
Ama ho agheya hiya hiya
Ama ho agheya hiya hiya hiya hiya

Ya ya ho agheya hiya hiya
E ha yo agheya hiya hiya
Ama aho agheya hiya hiya
Ama aho agheya hiya hiya
Ama agheya

Margaret's Song

Lead: A-way hiya A-way hiya
2nd: A-way hiya A-way hiya A-way hiya oh wayo hey a heyo
A-way hiya A-way hiya A-way hiya oh wayo hey a-wayo hey a heyo
(repeat)

Mountain Lion

Lead: Waya hey yata heya
2nd: Waya hey yata heya waya yata heya ... tladatsi *mountain lion*
Waya hey yata heya waya yata hey adtlisai *running*
Waya hey yata heya waya yata hey.. adtlisai adtlisai
Way hey yata heya way yata ho adtlisai adtlisai adtlisai
Tladatsi, waya yata heya tladatsi, waya yata ho
Tladatsi, waya yata heya tladatsi, waya yata ho adtlisai

Tiny Tot Jump Rope

Each section starts with lead, then 2nd, then the jump rope rhyme

Lead: A wayo heyo heyo

2nd: A wayo heyo hunh A wayo heyo heyo A wayo heyo hunh

Verse: I had a little puppy..... Bubble in his throat

Lead, 2nd, verse: In came the doctor....alligator purse.

Lead, 2nd, verse: Oh Mary Mack....down her back

Lead, 2nd, verse: "Mumps" said the doctor..... purse

Tag ending:

She Jumped so high

She Touched the sky

And she didn't come back

'Til the 5th of July

Meli's Crow Hop

Lead: koga koga

crow

2nd: koga koga way aho way aho

dekanogi way aheya

Koga koga way aho way aho

Dekanogi way aheya

Inanigi unalii way a hey hey na gwoo na (3X)

Let's go! How about now?

sings

Happy Song

Lead: Waya nigawe

the wolf is howling

2nd: Waya nigawe wea wea ho

Waya nigawe wea wea ho

Tsisqua dekanogia wea wea ho

the bird is singing

Tsisqua dekanogia wea wea ho

away ah hey away ah ho

kanogisdi alihelisdi

a happy song

Ah wea hey ah hey o

away ah hey away ah ho

kanogisdi alihelisdi

Ah wea hey a hey o

Transformation

Wey heya heya heya (3X)

Atsilv 'nai tsunasdi

fire of transformation

Wey heya heya heya (3X)

Unole 'nai tsunasdi

wind of change

Hand in Hand (Itsula)

Lead: Way hey itsula

2nd: Way hey itsula Way hey itsula (4X)

Unalii itsula unalii itsula way hey itsula way hey itsula (2X)

Itsula itsula itsula whoa itsula (2X)

Marin Round Dance

Lead: Wayo hey hey hiya.
2nd: Wayo hey hey hiya. Wayo hey hey hiya
Wayo hey hey wayo hey. Wayo hey hey wayo hey
Wayo hey wayo hey heyo

Get on up, get on your feet. In the circle, all will meet
One heart, hand in hand. Grateful on this sacred land.
Wayo hey wayo hey heyo

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

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

Lead: Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you
2nd: Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you
E qua u we yv heya *river, big & wide*
Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you
U we yv hey oh hey, a ya te na e quo ni

*In further verses, in place of "I long to see you":
a gi do da = my father
gv ge yu hi = I love you
I'm bound to leave you, I'll not deceive you*

Sun and Moon

Waya ya hey ya heya ho (repeat 4X)
Nv do i ga e hi Sv no yiehi nv do

Nv do i ga e hi Sv no yiehi nv do *sun, moon*

Waya ya hey ya heya ho (repeat 4X)
Unitsi adoda. Unitsi adoda *mother, father*

Si gi ni ge yu. O sa li he li ga *we love each other
we are grateful*

Luna Llana by Abuela Margarita Nuñez Garcia

Lead: Luna llena, luna llena, llename llename de amor
All: Luna llena, luna llena, llename llename de amor (3X)
Lead: Abuela luna, Abuela luna, cambia mis sentimientos en puro amor
All: Abuela luna, Abuela luna, cambia mis sentimientos en puro amor
All: Full moon, full moon, fill me with love (2X)

With loving memory of Abuela, who instructed us to sing this song to each full moon.

