

Drumming Circle Songs

Also available online:

<https://aboutlittlethings.com/drumming>

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There are often different versions of the same songs used by other circles and groups. However, we have included only the ones we use in our Circle. The songs are in Mi’Kmaq and other languages. Some were passed on to us long before there was a written version. They have been sung from generation to generation and are another of our connections to the ancestors.

Giveaway Song

Note: This song is in the Pasawuqeme language

See o dans de ma so wee no ma gil wah
yo (2)

Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

See o dan eej a nah gil wah yo (2)
Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

Chorus:

a-way-ah-hey-ah
a-way-ah-hey-ah-hey-ah-hey
a-way-ah-hey-ah
a-way-ah-hey-ah-hey-ah-hey
a-way-ah-hey-ha
a-way-ah-hey-ha
a-way-ah-hey
a-way-ah-way-ah-hey-ah-hey-ah-
hey

See o dan de deej we no de gee gil wah yo (2)
Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

See o dan opi gee gil wah yo (2)
Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

See o dan ski de me gil wah yo (2)
Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

See o dan vermah so we no ma gil way yo (2)
Ja gig awah sun sisk ka mish
Na gopsi det nee gon ya
Maylanya yo dee dah gay

Honour Song

Geb-me-day-de-mah-nej don delly ull-nole-deek
Ni-gah-mahj-dood (gay) mah-wee-dah-nej
Geb-me-day-de-mah-nej don wed-ah-beck-sool-deegW
Ni-gah-mahj-dood (gay) ah-bone-mah-dole-dee-nej
Ah-bone-mah-dolt-dee-nej don Gee-soolk delly ee-gah-loog-seeg
oo-lah wis-geet-ah-moo way-yah-heyo

way oh way ha yah (yah)
way oh hey oh hey ha yah
way oh hey ha yah (ah)
way oh hey ha yah
way oh hey ha yah
way oh hey ha yah (ah)
way oh hey ha yah hey yo

(Repeat four times)

.....

Honour Song – Our attempt at Phonetics

*Get me day dom-n-aye, don delle ol no day
Nig-a-ma-so gay ma we don nay
Get me day dom-n-aye, don wed-e-o-bay su day
Nig-a-ma-so gay o bo ma do de nay
A bo ma do de nay don gee su delle ga-ah-loo-say
Oo la wis ga mo, way ha, way ho*

.....

English Translation

Let us greatly respect our being L’nu
My people let us gather
Let us greatly respect our native roots
My people let us help one another
Let us help one another as Creator intended when he put us
on this earth

Green Corn: Song to Honour Mother Earth

Yoney Yoney ya hey ha igano laya

Yoney Yoney ya hey ha igano lay

Yoney Yoney ya hey ha igano laya

Yoney Yoney ya hey ha igano lay

He gon naj gik doonn gek igano lay

He gon naj gik doonn gek igano lay ya

Strong Woman Song

Whey hey ya, Whey hey ya hey yo
Whey hey ya, Whey hey ya hey yo
Whey hey ya, Whey hey ya
Whey hey ya, Whey hey ya Whey hey ya
Whey hi yo

Whey hey ya whey hey ya whey hi ya
Whey hey ya, whey hey ya whey hey ya
Whey hi yo

(Repeat 4 times)

.....

What we know about the Strong Woman Song:

“That’s actually an old song. It was a social song that was sung at Round Dances. I stand to be corrected but this is what I was told: Maggie Paul, an elder from Saskatchewan, brought the song into the women’s penitentiary and taught it to them. She spent a lot of time with them, keeping them connected to their culture, music and whatnot. It had another title at the time but what I guess had happened is that there were riots and ... things were going on in the women’s prison. They were being raped and ridiculed and all this sort of stuff (by the prison guards). What happened is that a group of women basically stepped together and sang that song continuously while this was happening and they were left untouched. I guess this secret energy came over them and that is how the song become known as “The Strong Woman’s Song.”

~ Kym Grouchie
friendshipcentre.ca

Welcome Song

Kwan oh dey-ey, kwan oh dey-ey
Kwan oh dey-ey, kwan oh diya

Kwan oh dey-ey, kwan oh dey-ey
Kwan oh dey-ey, kwan oh diya

Kwan oh dey-ey ey kwan oh dey hey
Kwan oh dey-ey kwan oh dey-ey
Kwan oh dey-ey, kwan oh diya

Feast Song

He go He gon day
Way o way way o hey
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day ney hey a tay ho

Hey a kay day a ka
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh don ney hey a tay ho

Hey a ka day a ka
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh don ney hey a tay ho

Hey a ka day a ka
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh day
Gwan a lee a gwan oh don ney hey a tay ho

Ta Hoe!

Note: This is a song to thank the Creator for all that the Creator provides. It also symbolizes the tradition of sharing all resources among our people

Mi'kmaq Prayer Song

Way Hey Ya Hey Hey Nu
Way Hey Ya Hey Hey Nu
Way Hey Ya Hey Hey Nu Yah

Hey nu yah, hey nu
Hey nu yah, hey nu ... nu yah

Hey nu yah, hey nu
Hey nu yah, hey nu ... yah

Hey nu yah, hey nu
Hey nu yah, hey nu ... nu yah

Hey nu yah, hey yah
Hey nu yah ... ahey nu yah

Travelling Song

Wey hey ya hey ya hey yo
Wey hey ya hey ya hey yo

Wey hey ya hey ya hey yo-o
Wey hey ya hey ya hey yo

(Repeat 4 times)

Water Song - fast

Wishita do a do ya do ya
Wishita do ya do ya hey
Wishita do a do ya do ya
Wishita do ya do ya hey

Wisha teneya heya heya
Wisha teneya heya hey
Wisha teneya heya heya
Wisha teneya heya hey

Water Song - slow

Medah somaguan
Skoo wee jun

Shoo way jun
Medah somaguan

(Repeat 7 times)

Woodpecker (Bapasay)

Bapasay, Bapasay
Bay Gee shik tay ahh koo gay
Ya yay a way heyoyoyo

Way heyaya way heyaya
Way heyaya way heyaya
Yayaya way heyoyoyo

*The woodpecker is knocking on the door of your heart with his beak,
saying to your little child within*

*“Hey you! (knock, knock, knock). Can you come out and play?
Open up your heart and let the good medicine in! Share your
good medicine with Creation!”*

*This song was given to me by Nokomis Wasgone Debassige Kwe (My
Grandmother, “Blooming Flower Far Reaching Light Woman”). I learned
through her example that no matter the age, everyone must live in
balance of work and play. I hope that this song and Bapasay help you
and you choose to enjoy your days. Wela’lin*

Sittingbear Scott Debassige

Song Translation

Bapasay (the woodpecker),
Bapasay (the woodpecker)
Bay Gee shik (all day)
Tay ahh koo gay (is knocking)
(The woodpecker, all day, is knocking)