

# 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-deeg  
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-ah-heyo

Way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-hi-yah  
Way-yoh-way-hi-yah-hay-yoh

***(Repeat four times)***

.....

## **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

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## 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 heyo yo yo

Way heya away heya  
Way heya away heya  
Yay a ya way heyo yo yo

*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)

## Humble Song

We gotta humble ourselves in the eyes of our Creator  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta know what she knows  
We can raise each other up, higher and higher  
We can raise each other up

We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our **NISKAMIJ**  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our **MISHOMIS**  
We gotta know what he knows  
We can raise each other up, higher and higher  
We can raise each other up

We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our **NUKUMIJ**  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our **NOOKIMIS**  
We gotta know what she knows  
We can raise each other up, higher and higher  
We can raise each other up

We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our CHILDREN  
We gotta bend down low  
We gotta humble, ourselves in the eyes of our CHILDREN  
We gotta know what they knows  
We can raise each other up, higher and higher  
We can raise each other up

*Repeat the verse replacing with  
the following:*

WINGED  
FOUR LEGGED  
SWIMMERS  
CRAWLERS

*Lower voice and end with:*

Higher and Higher  
We can raise each other up  
Higher and Higher  
We can raise each other up