

Tanya Tagaq (Cambridge Bay, NU)

“Tanya is directly musically in touch with something that is almost a ghost. To me, it is something that is so special and so much a part of the earth and the land and the environment” – David Harrington, Kronos Quartet

‘Indescribable’ is not an appropriate word to begin an artist’s bio, nor is it suitable as a description of a musician. The problem is this: when Tanya Tagaq’s music fills your ears, she is genuinely one of those rare artists whose sounds and styles are truly groundbreaking. ‘Inuit throat singer’ is one part of her sonic quotient. So are descriptions like ‘orchestral’ ‘hip-hop-infused’ and ‘primal’...but these words are not usually used collectively. In the case of Tagaq, however – they are.

So much has happened to Tagaq since the release of her debut CD *Sinaa* (meaning ‘edge’ in her ancestral language of Inuktitut) in 2005. The Nunavut-born singer has not just attracted the attention of some of the world’s most groundbreaking artists, they have invited her to participate on their own musical projects, not just singularly, but repeatedly. Tanya has recently recorded once again with Björk (specifically on the soundtrack for the Matthew Barney film *Drawing Restraint 9*) having already appeared on Björk’s *Medúlla* CD in 2004 and accompanied her on the *Vespertine* tour. In 2005, another monumental collaborative project came to fruition when the Kronos Quartet invited Tanya to participate on a project aptly titled *Nunavut*, which has been performed at select venues across North America, from its January 2006 debut at the Chan Centre in Vancouver, BC through to New York’s Carnegie Hall. Acclaim and respect has followed Tagaq on her solo ventures as well: both *Sinaa* and *Auk / Blood* were nominated for a Juno Award (Best Aboriginal Recording) and (Best Instrumental Recording) Both recordings won in several categories at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, including Best Female Artist.

Tanya’s most recent project is the stunning video “*Tungijjuq*” on which she collaborated with Jesse Zubot and Montreal filmmakers Felix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphael premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. In 2009 Tanya also narrated and provided music for the National Film Board documentary, *This Land*.

Michael Red (Vancouver, BC)

Michael Red is a Vancouver-based music producer/performer, DJ, and event organizer

As founding member of *Lighta! Sound*, Vancouver's most well known bass music crew, Michael's played a pivotal role in shaping the city's internationally recognized dubstep scene. Previous to *Lighta! Sound*, Michael made solid contributions to the city's live ambient/experimental community - through both event organizing, and performances under the name 'souns'.

Michael's performances with Tanya Tagaq are less scripted than they may seem. Primarily using 'Ableton Live' on a laptop with various midi controllers, Michael triggers loops and sound snippets, while "dubbing out" (throwing lots of effects onto) Tanya's voice live. The process is highly improvisational, though the result is often a comprehensive journey. When performing with Tanya, ALL of Michael's music is created from recordings collected from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut (Tanya's home). Every drum sound, bass sound, melodic sound, ALL sound is from digitally edited field or voice recordings made up north.

<http://www.myspace.com/michaelred4>

Cris Derksen (Vancouver, BC)

Cris Derksen is a young half-cree classically trained Canadian cellist whose captivating melodies and steadfast baselines have captured the attention of local and international audiences. She is a diverse musician, easily melding into hip-hop, rock, folk, country, or whatever type of music to bring an intense ball of musical passion to her work.

Using a loop station and effect pedals, she is able to create an inspiring multi-dimensional auditory experience that is uncharted for most classical players. Using sounds from her inherited past Cris mixes the traditional with the contemporary over and over again in both the cultural world as well as the music sphere.

Although Cris is an emerging artist, she has built up a strong resume performing at numerous international festivals. As a Composer Cris has Composed for Karen Jamieson Dance, The Tomorrow Collective and Aerial Firedance Troupe; Firebelly Productions. She has also performed with international Hip-

As a session musician her diversity continues as she has built up a strong resume recording with Tanya Tagaq on her album Auk / Blood, Rae Spoon, The Swifty's, Kinnie Starr, Lightning Dust (Members of Black Mountain), Ladyhawk, Bison, E.S.L, Girl Nobody, Fan Death, Leela Gilday, and Jason Burnstick as well as working with Native composer Russell Wallace.

Cris obtained a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance at UBC and shared the Principle Cellist role for the UBC Symphony Orchestra.