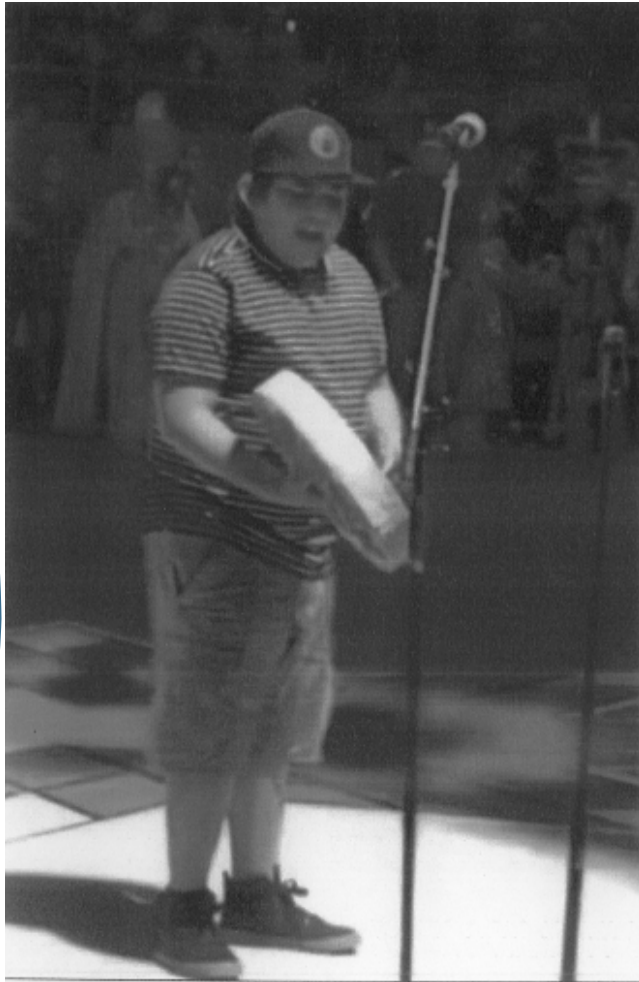


FEATURED ARTIST



ISAAC MUSQUA

NOVEMBER 2023



Isaac Musqua, an 11-year-old Saulteaux drummer from the Keeseekoose First Nation, first showed interest in the drum when he was about 2 years old. He would use his mother's iPod Shuffle, put on his earphones, and immerse himself in pow wow music. Isaac would drum on anything he could find—buckets, pots, chairs—creating beats that resonated with his young spirit.

At the age of 3, Isaac's life changed when he received his first hand drum from his late friend Bob. He would listen to YouTube and replicate the beats, honing his skills. When he was 4, he attended a ceremony and asked if he could sit at the drum. Despite being initially denied, Isaac's persistence paid off, and he spent the entire day singing.

By 7, Isaac received his first drum, perfectly sized for him. He started to sing songs from ceremonies and YouTube. At 9, he drew inspiration from larger drum groups, dreaming of meeting them someday.

When Isaac was 10, he went to see his uncle, who encouraged him to do leads and become louder. Isaac then connected with the late Nathan Pelly. Isaac convinced Nathan to attend the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Nathan and Isaac talked a lot through messaging, video calls and by sharing songs. Nathan always told Isaac to "keep singing, little buddy." Plans were made to honor Nathan by taking Isaac to New Mexico.

Now, at 11 years old, Isaac has been able to fulfill his dream of meeting the bigger drum groups on the pow wow trail. His beats echo the resilience and spirit of his Saulteaux heritage.



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HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE PHYSICAL & SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

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