

The information in this document was taken from the Facebook event page that was made for this concert.

Hoocąk Hit'et'era Nąąwą : Ho-Chunk Language in Song

Stevens Point, WI and the surrounding areas are the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk Nation. In recognition of an endangered language, the Stevens Point Area Senior High School Concert Choir has been learning a song cycle in the Ho-Chunk language, and will be performing it in a concert scheduled for March 12, 2024 in the SPASH auditorium at 7:30 PM. We are inviting members of the Ho-Chunk Nation and other First Nations of WI to be in attendance.

The Earth Still Speaks an original cross-cultural musical composition in Ho-Chunk and English. SPASH Choir Director and Composer, Luke Adsit, wrote the music and English lyrics for the song cycle and worked closely with Allen Cloud, Ho-Chunk elder. During the fall of 2019, Allen shared invaluable insight about the Ho-Chunk language and culture, which made it possible for the Ho-Chunk language to be incorporated into the song lyrics. It was an amazing learning experience to work through words and translations because of the differences between English and Ho-Chunk. There are some words in English that simply do not exist in Ho-Chunk. When this happened, Allen worked to find the most similar meaning or idea in Ho-Chunk. This allowed him to draw from his extensive knowledge and understanding of the Ho-Chunk language that he has been hearing and learning since birth.

The song cycle composition project was written in the fall of 2019 and previously taught to students at PJ Jacobs Junior High, though it was unable to be performed due to the pandemic. SPASH Concert Choir's performance will be the first time it is performed for a public audience. The song cycle was the basis for Adsit's master's thesis through the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Luke Adsit (2020) The Pedagogical Value of Learning a Musical Work in an Endangered Language: Ho-Chunk can be found at MINDS@UW website with the link below. <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/80381>

There are four movements of the song cycle with each movement having a different meaning and feeling, yet they are all connected to one another. Just as people are all different yet connected to one another more than we realize.

The Earth Still Speaks

I. Hanaxgu we day : Listen (you all)

The wind tells a story, you can hear it if you try. It brings the rain and thunder, the life-giving water. Open your heart, open your mind. You will find that if you just listen you will go further than before. And share what is given without ever taking more. You're bound to learn some lessons if you just open up the door and listen, just listen.

Mother Earth is speaking, listen. (Managre he tete nunk sha na, Hanaxgu we day)

II. Hiperes : Learn

Learn. Learn from your elders, and from each other. Learn from nature, knowledge is power. (Wonk shick xha tay-rah jah-goo eye dee shu-nu-rah. Managre hiperes jahwee skate. Hiperes-rah mah schu wa-oo nunk sha na.)

III. Kiruce : Share

Share lessons with others. Share with those in need. Time spent sharing is not lost. (Kiruce Ha-oo-wee Wah-doo geez-ra woh-goo. Woke-oo nah-kay ha nix-jate)

IV. He sto he na zhink scha wete : Unite

We are all different. We're all the same. Stronger together than when we divide. Unite. (Hanach hee jah wah-oo-nug-wete. Hanach hee kee-skeh wah-oo-nug-wete. Hee-stow hee mice-schunk scha-wete. Hee-stow hee nah-zhink scha-wete.)

The teaching and performance of this cross-cultural musical work will help students and audience members learn more about Wisconsin First Nations and to recognize that Native American people do exist in our country and community. It will also help students gain language awareness of Ho-Chunk and traditional Native American values, learn what an endangered language is, and how the continuation of that language is progressing. This performance will be very beneficial to people who have little or no knowledge of the Ho-Chunk language and culture, and is meant to bring minds together, strengthen this and other communities, and help raise enthusiasm and respect for different cultures, in this case the Ho-Chunk.

Special thanks to: Allen Cloud, Ho-Chunk elder, Julia Goodbear, and the Ho-Chunk Nation language department. Jon Greendeer, Ho-Chunk President has been invited to give a give a greeting and welcome. Ho-Chunk singers have also been invited to perform one song of the Ho-Chunk language and one in English.

Keep the date: 3/12/24, 7:30 PM, SPASH Auditorium, March High School Choir Concert.