



The Healing Heart of Lushootseed

Feeling heartbroken by the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, Vi Hilbert, an 83-year-old elder from the Upper Skagit Indian tribe in the Pacific Northwest, asked the spirit, "What can one person do to heal a sick world?" The answer she received was music.

The Healing Heart of Lushootseed tells the extraordinary story of how a diminutive great-grandmother tenaciously gathered support from unlikely corners for her most ambitious project yet, to heal the heart of the world. Her mission, 1. Commission an original symphony that embodied the compassion and healing power of her ancestral culture, 2. Convince the Seattle Symphony to perform it under the leadership of Maestro Gerard Schwarz, 3. Have the symphony performed around the world.

"It's a spiritual gift from my people, it comes in the form of symphony"

- Vi "taq^wšəblu" Hilbert

Featuring Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert, Composer Bruce Ruddell, Maestro Gerard Schwarz, and the Seattle Symphony. The film is interwoven with beautiful and immersive images of the Pacific Northwest, home of the Coast Salish tribal peoples, while showcasing footage from the world debut of "*The Healing Heart of The First People of This Land, A Symphony in Four Movements*" performed by the Seattle Symphony at Seattle's Benaroya Hall - May 20th, 2006.

Produced in association with Lushootseed Research - Louse House Media, Fidget, and New Canoe Media
Executive Producer and Narrator Jill K. La Pointe
Written and edited by Katie Jennings
Interviews and Concert footage produced by John Forsen
Title Design, Sound Mix & Color by John K. La Pointe

DOCUMENTARY: 40 minutes, English, United States, Copyright 2023

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www.healingheartproject.org



The Healing Heart of the First People of this Land

A Symphony by Bruce Ruddell • Commissioned by Upper Skagit Elder, Vi “taqʷšəblu” Hilbert
World Premiere - The Seattle Symphony - Mark Taper Auditorium, Benaroya Hall

May 20th, 2006 - **SOLD OUT**

THE HEALING HEART OF THE FIRST PEOPLE OF THIS LAND

Running time: 40 minutes (four movements)

Prepare • Thunder Spirit Power Song • Healing Song • The Journey Forward

“It’s a spiritual gift from my people, it comes in the form of symphony”

- Vi “taqʷšəblu” Hilbert

Feeling heartbroken by the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, Vi Hilbert, an 83-year-old elder from the Upper Skagit Indian tribe in the Pacific Northwest, asked the spirit, “What can one person do to heal a sick world?” The symphony is her response. Her mission, 1. commission an original symphony that embodied the compassion and healing power of her ancestral culture, 2. convince the Seattle Symphony to perform it under the leadership of Maestro Gerard Schwarz, 3. have the symphony performed around the world.

“You can’t really understand a gift of this magnitude, it goes beyond words.”

- Maestro Gerard Schwarz

The symphony is a powerful and deeply moving work that transcends the boundaries of language and culture. The music is highly rhythmic and lyrical and speaks to the heart, mind, and soul of the listeners - elevating the spirit and its capacity for love, compassion, and resilience.

*“It was clear to us, that the mission of the piece was possible,
to heal the world through music.”*

- Evan Bridges, Violist, WWU

STANDARD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRATION

Including: Soprano Sax, Mezzo-soprano, and essential Indigenous instruments (for the authenticity and integrity) Northwest coastal drums, a Raven rattle, and an Eagle rattle (available on loan thru Lushootseed Research).

The indigenous instruments enable the audience to hear and feel the sacred resonance and healing power of love and compassion that swells from the heart of Lushootseed language and culture.

To request an audio sample of the symphony or a copy of the score (PDF)

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or go to www.healingheartproject.org

