



TANYATAGAQ



Canada Council
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Conseil des Arts
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TANYA TAGAQ

B I O G R A P H Y

What do free improvisation, Inuit throat singing, and hair-raising passion have in common? Add descriptors like mesmerizing, intimate and ‘pushing the edge’ and you begin to understand the endlessly inventive quality of Tanya Tagaq’s sonic equation.

Born and raised in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut in Canada’s high arctic, Tanya grew up surrounded by Inuit and western culture. It wasn’t until her teenage years that she began experimenting with Inuit throat singing, developing her signature solo style. Her first professional gig at a festival in Inuvik won the admiration of friends of Bjork, eventually leading to an appearance on the Icelandic artist’s 2004 CD, *Medulla* and a chance to accompany her on tour.

Tanya has released two critically-acclaimed albums, *Sinaa* and *Auk/Blood*, both of which were nominated for Juno Awards and won awards at the 2005 and 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. In 2005, the world-renowned Kronos Quartet invited her to participate in a monumental collaborative project *Nunavut*, which was performed across North America and Europe. The ensemble reunited in 2007 for the creation of *Tundra Songs* by Derek Charke.

Recently venturing into film, Tanya contributed to the “Diaries of Knut Rasmussen” soundtrack and acted as musician/narrator for the award-winning National Film Board documentary, *This Land*. She joined forces with musician Jesse Zubot and filmmakers Felix Lajeunesse and Paul Raphael for the video

Tungijjuq, which premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and 2010 Sundance Film Festival and also won “Best Short Drama” at the 2009 imagineNATIVE Film & Media Arts Festival Awards. Tanya is presently at work on another album, slated for release in 2012

“Traditional throat singing is a game between two women that is an emulation of the sounds from the land.”

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R E V I E W S



“[Tanya’s music is] like Edith Piaf... totally emotional.”

BJORK

“Calling Tanya Tagaq an Inuit throat singer is like calling Yo-Yo Ma a cello player. Sure, it’s accurate, but it’s not the whole of what he does. Like Ma, Tagaq is the best of what she does – innovative, inspired.” —*The National Post, Canada*

“... [Tagaq] made it (Inuit throat singing) sound fiercely contemporary, futuristic even. Recalling animal noises and various other nature sounds, she was a dynamo, delivering a sort of gothic sound art while she stalked the small basement stage with feral energy.” —*Jon Caramanica, The New York Times*

“... Tagaq rose to the occasion with a performance that was simply elemental. Her approach is essentially abstract ... Yet her singing delivered very concrete images of winter storms and summer sunshine, of birth and death and sexual ecstasy, of struggle and survival.” —*Alex Varty, The Georgia Straight, review of 2010 performance with Kronos Quartet*

“Tanya Tagaq was an absolute standout, The Canadian prowling inside the candle-surrounded circular centre of the mausoleum and proving to be haunting both in breath-taking beautiful and completely terrifying manners, switching almost instantaneously and at times rapidly between high-octave almost-operatic melodies and guttural yelps, the venue making it seem as though she was duetting with herself in some hypnotic demonic dance. Catch her at all costs if you possibly can.”

—*Glasgow Review, Hamilton Mausoleum, Glasgow*

“I just wanted to say that Tanya Tagaq’s performance (at WOMAD) was about one of the best things I have ever seen, I was truly blown away, as was everyone around me. I immediately went to buy her cd!” —*Fan comment, (Kate G, UK)*

“Quite how one woman sitting with four musicians could create such a visceral image is both baffling and difficult to explain, but this was an exquisitely drawn landscape. And the effect was nothing short of cinematic.” —*Globe & Mail, Canada, (concert review of Tundra Songs with the Kronos Quartet)*

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SELECTED PERFORMANCES AWARDS

With Kronos Quartet:

- **The Old Fruitmarket**, Glasgow, 2011
- **The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts**, Vancouver, 2010
- **Isabel Bader Theatre**, Toronto, 2009
- **Disney Hall**, Los Angeles, 2008
- **Theatre de la Ville**, Paris, 2007
- **Carnegie Hall**, New York, 2006

With her group:

- **WOMAD**, Australia & New Zealand, 2011
- **2010 Paralympic Closing Ceremony**, Canada, 2010
- **Festival Barroquisimo**, Mexico, 2010
- **MADE-Festival**, Sweden, 2010
- **Druga Godba Festival**, Slovenia, 2010
- **Edmonton Folk Music Festival**, Canada, 2010, 2007
- **Festival of World Cultures**, Ireland, 2010
- **WOMAD**, England, 2010
- **Palac Arkopolis**, Czech Rep, 2010, 2009
- **GlobalFest**, USA, 2009
- **Colours of Ostrava**, Czech Rep, 2008
- **WOMEX**, Spain, 2008

Best Media

“Tungijuq” Western Music Awards 2010

Best Short Drama

“Tungijuq” ImagineNative Film & Media Awards

Best Album Design

“Auk/Blood” Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2008

Best Female Artist

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2005

Best Album Design

“Sinna” Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2005

Best Producer Engineer

“Sinna” Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2005



“Jimi Hendrix
of Inuit throat
singing”

DAVID HARRINGTON,
KRONOS QUARTET, on
TANYA TAGAQ

TANYA TAGAQ

C O N T A C T S



"What I do is pretty out there and especially when I'm home it's totally normal what I do..."

— TANYA TAGAQ



Canadian label:

Jericho Beach Music
P.O. Box 53503, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4M6 Canada
info@jerichobeach.com • www.jerichobeach.com

U.S. label: Ipecac Recordings
info@ipecac.com • www.ipecac.com

UK Label: Jericho Beach UK
www.jerichobeach.co.uk

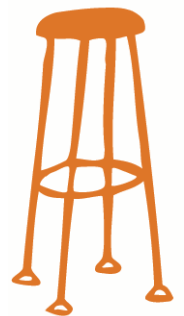
Booking (Canada):
Jack Schuller, Mainstage Management Inc.,
P.O. Box 53503, Vancouver, BC V5Z 4M6 Canada
Tel: 604-488-9153
jack@mainstagemanagement.com

Booking (Europe) except France:
Miguel Santos, Red Orange,
76 Kestrel House, Pickard St., London EC1V 8EL, UK
Tel: +44 20 7490 2497
miguel.santos@redorange.org.uk
www.redorange.org.uk

Booking (France):
Guillaume de Rémusat
+33 661 837 520
guillaume@deremusat.com
www.deremusat.com

Booking (USA):
Alexandra Casazza, Trouble Worldwide
Tel: 415-794-1533
alex@troubleworldwide.com
www.troubleworldwide.com

Tanya Tagaq on the Web:
www.tanyatagaq.com
www.facebook.com/tanyatagaq
www.myspace.com/tagaq
twitter.com/tagaq



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