In celebration and honor of Indigenous and Native American artists

As part of our efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization and in our field, we are pleased to announce a special playlist dedicated to Native American and Indigenous artists. This playlist was curated in celebration and honor of Indigenous American composer Paul Creston's career, who was one of the first American composers to write for Native American instruments and who dedicated his life to introducing a broader audience to the richness of Native American music.

The playlist is available on our YouTube channel and features works by Native American and Indigenous composers, including Brent Michael Davids, Jerod Impichchaqua, and Louis Ballard. These artists have contributed to the cultural diversity of our organization and have helped to advance the visibility of Native American and Indigenous music.

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A special thank you to the artists who helped us curate this playlist:

Brent Michael Davids, Jerod Impichchaqua, Louis Ballard

Artists featured:

Brent Michael Davids: Winners of the 2020 Native American Composer Apprentice Project

Jerod Impichchaqua: Member of the Hunkpapa Lakota Nation

Louis Ballard: Composer and performer of Native American music

Please share this playlist and help us celebrate the contributions of Native American and Indigenous artists.

Are you a parent or educator?

In addition to the SPCO’s free online Concert Library, our education and community engagement resources are available to all ages to engage with the performances in the Concert Library.

We invite you to explore the playlist of works by Native American and Indigenous artists below, curated in celebration and honor of Indigenous and Native American artists.

Tap into a new playlist!

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American composer Brent Michael Davids wrote Taptonahana for Solo Flute which was commissioned by the SPCO in 2021. Davids' composes his music and is inspired by his Indigenous heritage as a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation and blends Western composition and traditional indigenous song-ing. Taptonahana means "we speak" in the Mahican language and the composer describes it as "a musical conversation, as if embracing several indigenous speakers, but enacted alone by solo flute."

The composer, Brent Michael Davids, wrote this piece with a shape that mirrored the Mahican language. Check out some videos from a fellow member of the Stockbridge-Munsee band, Brock Schreiber who teaches online Mahican language lessons: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vndE2iJM24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vndE2iJM24)

In listening to the beginning of the piece, what do you notice about the style? What sort of "conversation" does the flute sound like it is having? (Listen 0-1:17)

What effects and techniques do you hear from the flute that make it sound like speaking?

What do you notice about the flute and how the "conversation" changes at 4:24-4:49? Describe or draw your answer here:

Quick facts about traditional Native American flutes:
-end blown with two air chambers and fipple mouthpiece
-made of cedar wood
-typically 5-6 tone holes on instrument
-many variations in design, size and form that are traditional for each tribe and played for different ceremonies, entertainment, love songs and dancing.

Native American Flute Demonstration: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b3b93GnT5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b3b93GnT5s) Bryan Akipa
How would you describe the difference in sound between the Native American flute and the Western Concert flute?

Which flute performance did you like the best from these two examples (Taptonahana by Brent Michael Davids and Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 by J.S. Bach)? Why did you like it best today? Would that opinion change on another day?

What do you want to know more about on the topic of Native American flutes? (What questions do you have about these flutes and how/when they are played, cleaned, taken care of, made..)

Do you know of other cultures that have flutes or flute-like instruments? Check out a penny whistle, ocarina, recorder, xun, piccolo….etc. Add to our list here and share what you learned!