



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 “taqʷšəblu” 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 Benaroya Hall on May 6th, 2006.

Produced in association with Lushootseed Research - Louse House Media, Fidget, and New Canoe Media
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