



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
A CONCERT IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Friday, September 29, 2023

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)
Nelson Tagoona, *performer/throatboxer*

Welcoming Remarks and Land Acknowledgement

Raj Singh and Todd Wiczorek

Musical Performance

Nelson Tagoona, throat boxer

THE ARTIST

Born in Prince River, Nunavut and raised in Baker Lake, Nunavut, **Nelson Tagoona** is a motivational speaker and self-taught Inuk musician who began playing guitar at age seven and started composing music as a teenager.

Nelson has been actively performing throughout the Canadian Arctic since 2010. Known as the only “throat-boxer” in the world, Nelson combines traditional Inuit throat singing with hip hop culture, namely beatboxing to form a genre he calls “throat boxing.” His performances are mainly improvised and combine his knowledge of Inuit culture and performance practices with hip hop culture and his lived experiences. Nelson’s music and messaging are designed to facilitate and nurture wellbeing for anyone dealing with mental health issues and intergenerational trauma within his community and beyond.

In recognition of his throat boxing and work with youth in his community, Nelson was awarded the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. A highly sought after musician, Nelson has performed at the National Arts Centre (2013) and the Pan Am Games (2015).

Notably, Nelson also performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 2017 for their premiere of *Adizokan*. Commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as part of Canada 150, *Adizokan* brings orchestral music and Indigenous dance, filmmaking, and music to the concert stage. In partnership with Sandra Laronde (Teme-Augama Anishinaabe in Temagami, Northern Ontario) and Red Sky Performance, this suite was composed by Métis musician and scholar Eliot Britton and predominantly features interludes of electroacoustic throat-boxing by Nelson.

Special thanks to Dr. Matt Stahl, the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and Western Research for funding to bring Nelson to Western and make this performance possible.