

TANYA TAGAQ hits the ICA FolkFest Bayou Bar July 6 Juno Nominee brings Inuit vocal game to height of experimental music scene

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC, July 4, 2006—In six short years, groundbreaking Inuk throat singer, TANYA TAGAQ GILLIS, has brought an ancient Inuit vocal game to the height of the experimental music scene. She's collaborated with Bjork and the Kronos Quartet and toured with some of the world's leading global artists.

Like Bjork, TAGAQ makes music that is both decidedly unusual and universally appealing. Her new CD *Sinaa* (say "sih-NAA") displays her technique through a collection of original improvisations and three traditional Inuk throat songs. Four songs also feature the tribal-sounding beats of the *txalaparta* (say "cha-la-PAR-ta"), traditional Basque percussion provided by Filipe Ugarte and his duo, Ugarte Anaiak.

It's a far cry from traditional throat singing, which is neither an emotional art form nor the work of a solo artist. Conventionally, throat singing is done by pairs of women who stand face to face and create rhythms out of the sounds made with their breath and vocal chords. One leads and the other fills in the gaps in her rhythm until one gives in to laughter or exhaustion. The only similarity is the sounds themselves.

Though TAGAQ grew up in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, she had little exposure to the centuries old art form. It wasn't until her final year of art school in Halifax that she began emulating tapes of throat singing her mother had sent her from home. She had no partner to practice with and no one to teach her the "right way to do it". But her passion for the form convinced her to make it a primary form of expression.

Bjork describes TAGAQ as "like Edith Piaf or something...totally emotional." CBC's *Zed* claims "TANYA TAGAQ GILLIS is possibly the most unique performer of truly traditional, Canadian music in our country."

TANYA TAGAQ will be making her debut on the ICA FolkFest Bayou Bar Thursday, July 6 with two half-hour sets: 5:30-6:00pm and 7:45-8:15pm. She will be sharing the stage with SEKOYA, winners of the 2005 Canadian Indie Award for Electronic Music and Contemporary Jazz Juno nominees (6:30-7:15pm and 8:45-10:00pm.)

FolkFest is presented by the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and produced by TNT Productions. For more information, visit www.icafolkfest.com.

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