



Elisapie, Inuit musician at Vieilles Charrues.

Rob And I'm very lucky to be speaking with Elisapie who's come a long way to be at the Vieilles Charrues. Where, whereabouts are you from?

Elisapie I live in Montréal but I'm from Nunavik in northern Québec. It's a small Inuit community in Salut(?)

Rob What kind of a place is that? I mean it's very different to Brittany.

Elisapie Well it's a tad different . Well it's near the water like, uh, near the bay. We are 14 coastal communities, Inuit communities that covers pretty much the whole Quebec, the northern parts so it's a small Inuit community, very isolated. You can only travel by plane so yeah, that's the reality of the North.

Rob You, you use the traditions, you sing about the traditions of this group of people, this Inuit group.

Elisapie Well I, I d.... I'm actually modern music. There's nothing traditional in what I do. I'm very much inspired by any, any you know, folk artists like Neil Young, Bob Dylan and also a lot of rock 'n roll. Where I'm from we, uh, we been making music since modern music since the sixties you know, my uncle's band. So actually my, my inspirations are all about the modern sounds, recreating sounds I sing in my language and I sing about the territory, I sing about our opeople, I sing about love, I sing about many things that concern me as a woman, as an indigenous woman. So, yeah, it's a mix of both worlds, yeah. it's Inuktitut I sing and also English and a little bit of French. I just try to just go with the flow and see what is inspiring me then.

Rob Your music is..... I find very intimate.

Elisapie Very personal I would say.

Rob Yes, do you think that fits with a big festival arrangement like this one here?

Elisapie I, I just don't know because this is one of the biggest I think of where we've been. We've been to Czech Republic which was huge which really surprised me because people came to see me afterwards with my music which is not very festival, party music. There was, like, over three thousand people and they were very attentive so I think I have to work extra hard I think to really try to connect, to really adapt to what's in front of me so we will have to see about that... yeah.

Rob You know Brittany quite well I think. Do you feel there's any links between your background to what's happening with the independence movement here in Brittany?

Elisapie I had no idea what Brittany was all about until not so long ago. I knew it was different, distinct but now more and more I realise that there's a very strong connection because we ourselves as Inuit really want to define ourselves as, of course, we're different, and also because we're from a very special place in the north and also we want to self-govern more and more. That's also something we're thinking about so,

of course there's a big connection and I think that's a lot of intensity with the people here and that's great, I love it.

Rob Thinking about the things you sing about. You sing about wolves, something which is very appropriate to your place of birth. Uuuh, you sing about a runaway girl. Is that, is that you?

Elisapie Runaway girl could be me, could be you, could be your granddaughter, could be my friends around. Yeah, we're all run away people. I think we have to, at one point face and accept that. We have to face the realities in order to stop fleeing(?) all the time with our emotions. I think we're, we can be very vulnerable and it's OK. Yeah, I'm only running away because I have to be on the road, but other than that I I'm calm now.

Rob One last question.

Elisapie Yeah.

Rob You mention sing in your own language, you were singing in English, you were singing in French. Why do you choose English?

Elisapie Because that's the music I grew up listening to. Yeah, I mean my uncle sang in English in the sixties. It doesn't mean they don't appreciate their language, or don't speak their language, are proud of their culture. Also it's just we're very free that way. We just sing whatever is musically appropriate and, yeah so I like to mix languages.

Rob Thank you very much indeed for this short interview. It's been a great pleasure to meet you.

Elisapie Thank you.