Musicians of the Midnight Sun

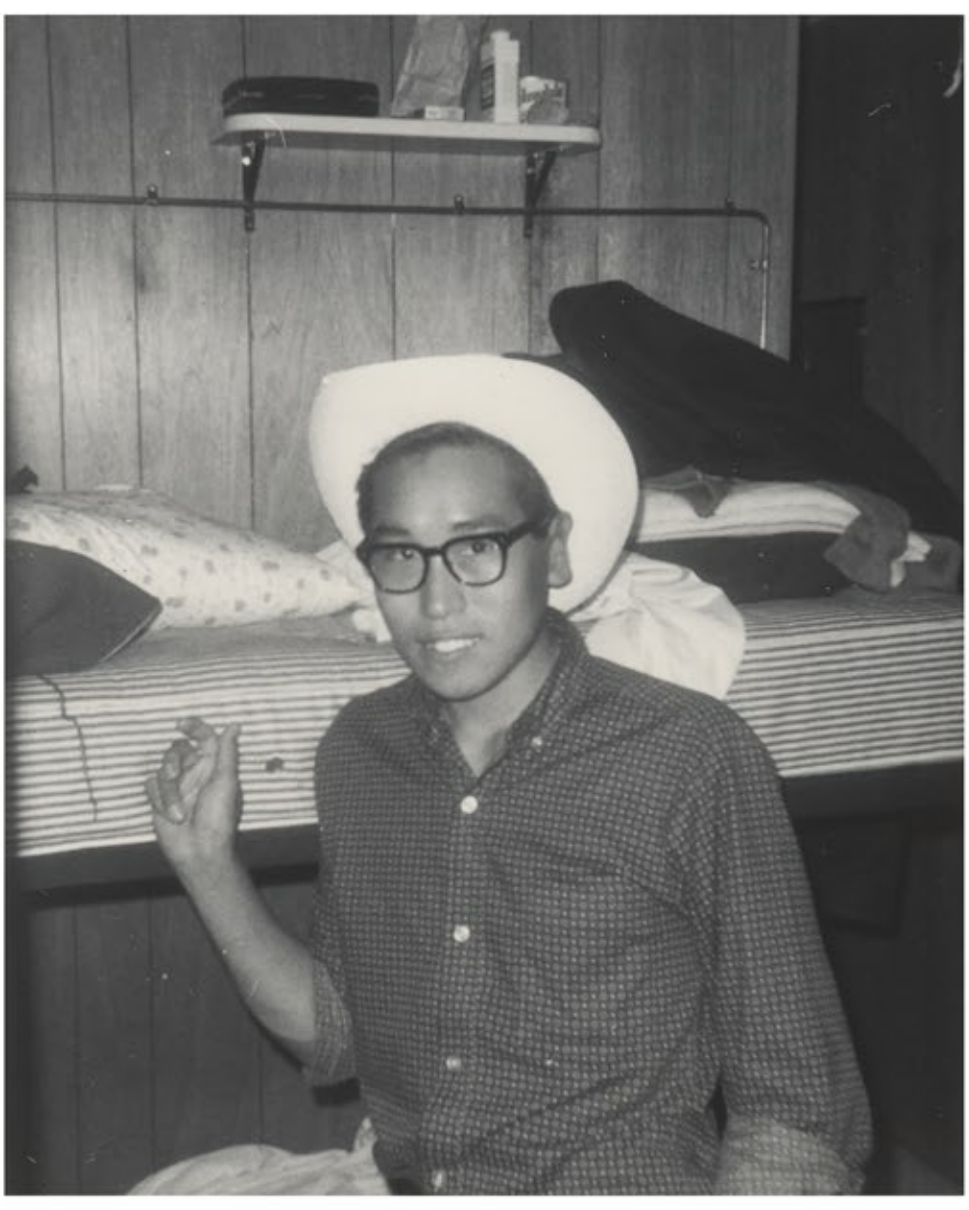
Thank you for visiting the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website. Even though these blogs are being posted many weeks after the launch of the Musicians of the Midnight Sun website, my hope is that they will remain as a document along with the website itself with the intention to give a little bit more of a personal story of my relationships with these featured artists.

David Evalik

I had known of David Evalik's music through the "Good Time Band" he started in Inuvik and after we got to know each other, realized we both had played a lot of music with the late Frank Cockney, a renowned and respected fiddler from Tuktoyaktuk. David's name came up when I was interviewing Tom Hudson about the 1967 Centennial barge trip where David played Bass with the band, "The Centennaires". Tom said no one else was taking any pictures except for David who was taking pictures of everything. I, for one, am glad he did.

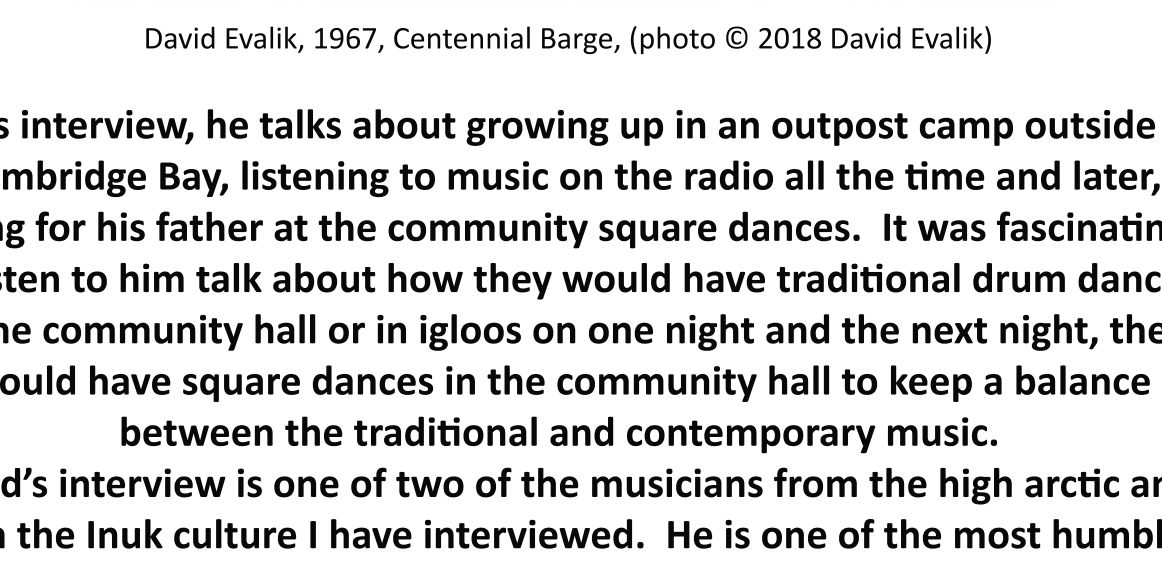
'The Centennaires', 1967 Centennial barge; Eddie Bazie, Archie Plamondon, Lawrence Thrasher, Tom Hudson, David Evalik (photo © David Evalik)

I tried to get together to interview David in his home town of Cambridge Bay, NU in December of 2017 but a raging blizzard and subsequent changes to our schedules kept that from happening. David passed through Yellowknife in September of 2018 and we managed to get this interview in his hotel room at the Explorer hotel. David provided a treasure trove of photographs from that 1967 barge trip and many more from the mid to late 1960s at Akaitcho Hall. David was all of about 13 years old when he moved from Cambridge Bay to Yellowknife to go to school. In 1967, he was all of 16 years old.



David Evalik, 1967, Centennial Barge, (photo © 2018 David Evalik)

In his interview, he talks about growing up in an outpost camp outside of Cambridge Bay, listening to music on the radio all the time and later, DJing for his father at the community square dances. It was fascinating to listen to him talk about how they would have traditional drum dances in the community hall or in igloos on one night and the next night, they would have square dances in the community hall to keep a balance between the traditional and contemporary music.
David's interview is one of two of the musicians from the high arctic and from the Inuk culture I have interviewed. He is one of the most humble, soft spoken and passionate musicians I have ever met. A product of his faith and his love of music, his generation and the cultural and musical changes he has seen in his lifetime.



Centennial barge, 1967. back row L-R, Rick Williams, Ted Wesley, unknown, Eddie Bazie. Front row L-R, Lorna _ , Leslie Wesley, David Evalik. (photo © 2018 David Evalik)

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