



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.

Louie Goose

I have known of Louie Goose for almost my whole life, met him maybe a handful of times but never got to really know him until the summer of 2018 when we did the interview for MMS. As soon as he walked into my old town shack, he told me he was very comfortable as it reminded him of one of his earlier homes in the Mackenzie Delta. So, with, ravens squawking to be fed, sparrows chattering away in the feeder, floatplanes taking off directly over the shack and delivery trucks rolling up and down the hill just outside the front window, he shared the epic tale of his ancestry, heritage and youth.



NWT festival musicians. back row; Larry Adjun, David Gon. Middle row; Colin Adjun, Johnny Landry, Willie Gordon, Louie Constant, Louie Goose, Haunaq Mikkigak, Timangiaq Petalussi 1990,

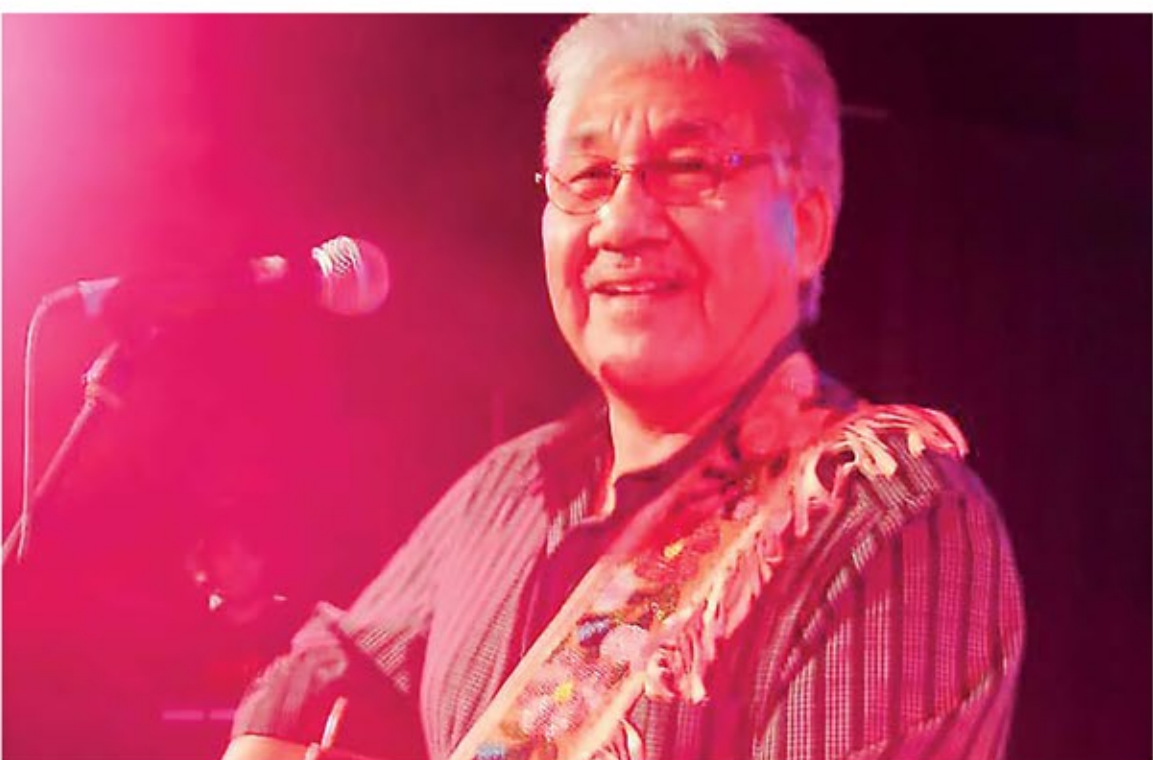
Since that interview, we have had many long talks over the phone, reviewing and editing the transcript of the interview. Each time, Louie would add more chapters to the story, providing context for the original and at the same time, giving me a history lesson of the Inuvialuit. Again Louie is another example of how the oral tradition is still very much alive in the indigenous cultures in the north. He carries so much of his own family history as well as the history of his ancestors, gathering, documenting and telling their stories whenever he can so their memory will not be forgotten.



The Mackenzie Delta Band, Inuvik, 1976. L-R; Willie Gordon, Tom Barnaby, Frank Hansen (w Tambourine), Johnny Raymond,, Louie Goose, Charlie Furlong. (photo © 2018 Louie Goose)

Much of Louie's interview is told in the context of his ancestry and heritage. In my own editing of these interviews with this content, I have elected to let those stories remain as it is contextual to the present day. The fortuitous or unfortunate circumstances from 100 or 150 years ago set the stage for the artist/musician sitting across from me.

I appreciated Louie's attention to detail and to his desire to be understood clearly. This may be the result of his years of experience as a journalist and radio host but I believe also of his empathy for the real life characters in his stories in representing them as truthfully and graciously as he can.



Louie Goose, 2011, Mad Trapper, Inuvik. (photo ©Leanne-Goose)