



Dr. Elizabeth Jaakola

Musician & Cultural Educator, **Elizabeth (Lyz) Jaakola, also known as Nitaa-Nagamokwe**, is an enrolled Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Tribal member who intertwines making art, music and educating. Lyz has been paying it forward as a teacher since 1992 while also creating or performing in various musical styles around the world. A reservation-based performer, Lyz often works to bring others with her on stage and into the “limelight”, such as her mash-up band, #theindianheadband; a women’s hand drum group, Oshkii Giizhik Singers; or at her Tribal College’s Ojibwemowining Digital Arts Studio. Her

recent projects are serving as Cloquet City Councilor, completing a PhD in ethnomusicology, composing an opera about Zitkala-sa, (a Dakota activist, composer and educator) and composing for Cloquet School bands.

Lyz has received recognition as an MPR Artist, AICF Faculty of the Year, Arrowhead Regional Arts Council George Morrison Artist Award, Ordway’s Sally Award for Arts Educators, First People’s Fund Community Spirit Award and a Native American Music Award. She will be the first to say that any honor belongs to her husband, family, and community, because of their generous support and encouragement. Mostly, we owe all to our ancestors for what they have endured and retained so that we may be Anishinaabe.



Sessions Offered at Midwinter Convention
Sponsored by MacPhail Center for Music

Informance: Some ideas about teaching Native American (Anishinaabe) Musics

Session Slides

Join Lyz Jaakola as she shares knowledge of Indigenous music in Minnesota from 3 decades of teaching music in the Fond du Lac Ojibwe community and sharing across Minnesota in a variety of classrooms since 2008. Lyz grew up on the Northern reservation in a mixed family and quickly learned music could make a space for multicultural enjoyment and understanding. Becoming an educator after studying voice at UMD, she now uses her voice to share songs and traditions from the Ojibwe-Anishinaabe culture.



MOVED TO 2027 Session: The Double Helix of Ojibwe Music

The stuff of life. Vibrations create the world we know and organize, rearrange, transfer the energy to shift the vibe, evoke an emotion, heal a relationship...

Ojibwe Music has always been recognized as a means to purposefully shape the lives of singers, drummers, dancers and listeners. Lyz will break down the difference between ceremony songs and social songs in Ojibwe-Anishinaabe culture. Participants will learn songs that are appropriate to incorporate into the



average Minnesota classroom.

Session: MOVED TO 2027 What is Native American music for?

Have you wondered why Minnesota Native Americans make music? Is it for the same reasons as others in America? or other tribal peoples? Answers to these questions range from the personal to collective cultural norms, but often music is considered utilitarian in Native America. Lyz Jaakola will present on a few of the many genres of music in Indian Country while also sharing about moments in Minnesota history where more recent arrivals impacted Native Americans' music practices.