

Response to Review of *Essential Song: Three Decades of Northern Cree Music*. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2007. 174 pp. 18 photos/figures including nine musical transcriptions. includes a CD with 52 tracks. ISBN; 978-0-88920-459-1

I want to thank Elaine Keillor for her thorough review, but I also want to suggest that a number of the “quibbles” (though she is absolutely correct about the existence of hymn singing long before Sankey) exist because of a difference in perspective, both of time and place. The vocabulary reflects the usage of the people with whom I talked in central and northern Manitoba and Quebec during the decades of the 1970s to the 1990s. For example, although well-acquainted with the appellation, Thirst Dance, I have never heard it called anything other than Sun Dance. Likewise for Anishinaabe, people around here call themselves Anishnabay, although whether this will become accepted, only time will tell. Educator/author Myralene Ranville (an Anishnabay from Portage la Prairie) is adamant about the latter spelling. I used the word Ojibwe several times because that’s what my interviewee, Charles Beauchamp, from Peguis, Manitoba, called himself in the early 1990’s.

When I was in northern Quebec in 1982/84 the word “Eeyou” was never said to me nor did I see it written. The manuscript reflects this, but I do mention (14) that the James Bay Cree at Chisasibi, now prefer to be called “Iiyiyuu”. This is the same word as “Eeyou”, spelled differently.

In addition, I suggest that the term “agricultural fair” is as appropriate as rodeo for research on the origins of powwow because agricultural fairs (114) often included “Indian Dancing” and of course, rodeo events. Brandon’s Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, established in 1882, focuses on animal competitions, but also has hundreds of agricultural exhibits. (For the last decade though, the Ojibwe Dakota Tribal Council has run their own winter festival with hockey as the main competition). Also, in this context I want to mention that the southern powwow history in *Essential Song* is a mere overview, included so that readers can connect powwow movement into the North. My intention is solely to treat the introduction of the powwow into northern Manitoba, not to provide a comprehensive study of this vast and ever-changing complex.

Finally, as the great variety of appellations used in oral tradition are being hunted down, culled and then frozen for the printed page it is a challenge to please all communities. Thus, for *Essential Song*, I chose to write what I was hearing around me.

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