

Curtis Shingoose Jonnie is a member of the Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation in Manitoba. He was born Curtis Jonnie in 1946 and became widely known as Shingoose or Goose by those close to him, a nickname that originated from his great grandfather. Shingoose's life took a major shift at the age of four when he was adopted by a family in Steinbach as part of the 60's Scoop that set him on a pathway that would eventually take him full circle. Shingoose's musical ambitions took flight in his teens after moving to the U.S. where he began singing in a church choir and his musical ability did not go unnoticed. He was asked to join the Nebraska based Boystown Concert Choir as a vocalist and bassist, this experience took him on tours that included performances all the way to the Vatican.

In the late 60s and 70s, Shingoose performed with several rock and blues-based groups in Washington, D.C.. He joined "Wild Honey" which later changed their name to "Puzzle" a blues rock-based outfit that took the top prize at a statewide Battle of the Bands contest that brought him to the recording studio in New York City at ABC Records. Shingoose and the band were working with legendary producer Eddie Kramer, who famously worked with the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix and many others.

It was during this period that Shingoose met Jimi Hendrix and also John Lennon who encouraged him to carry on his music career despite some of the discrimination that he may face.

It was a few years later that Shingoose returned to Winnipeg, he wanted to reconnect with his community and was inspired by the growing voices and causes like those of the American Indian Movement.

He began performing as a singer songwriter and activist, his first solo recording "Native Country" was released in 1975 and featured collaborative work with his friend and musician Bruce Cockburn.

Shingoose gave voice to Indigenous People where there was often not one to be heard. He wound up crisscrossing paths and taking the stage with peers that included Buffy Saint Marie, Willy Dunn, Floyd Westerman, David Campbell, Alanis Obomsawin, Willie Thrasher, and others.

In the early 80s he collaborated with Don Marks and Bill Brittain on the First Nation musical play "InDEO" in which Shingoose played a dramatic actor.

Shingoose and Don Marks later co-founded Native Multimedia Productions, a television production company that was groundbreaking in its creation of a First Nations current affairs program called "Full Circle" it was later retitled "First Nations Magazine" for CKND Television in Winnipeg. Shingoose was also a correspondent on several First Nations issues on CTV's "Canada AM". In 1989, Shingoose coproduced the first of three groundbreaking variety television shows called "Indian Time", they were seen nationally on CTV. Shingoose served as the host and also performed in all three programs that also included Charlie Hill, Susan Aglukark, Kashtin, Buffy Saint Marie and many other well-known performers.

In 1991 Shingoose also hosted a three-part documentary series for CBC Radio entitled "First Nations Music".

Shingoose also served as the chair of the Juno Awards committee administering the Juno Award for Aboriginal Album of the Year.

It was in 1994, when Shingoose sat as the co-chair of the Juno Awards committee which administered the Juno Awards. He and Buffy Saint Marie and Elaine Bomberry were instrumental in the Creation of the Aboriginal category for Canada's Juno Awards ceremony. In 2004, his voice was at the table in guiding the principles of what would later become the Foundation of the Manito Ahbee Festival in 2005.

In 2012, Shingoose unfortunately suffered a stroke, which left him with partial paralysis and the need for a wheelchair. He began living at a home care in Winnipeg but never lost sight of projects and kept working. Then in 2016 the track "Silver River" was featured on the 2014 Grammy nominated compilation "Native North America Volume I". The song was a collaboration with Toronto based poet Duke Redbird, from the 1975 release "Native Country". It was that same year 2016 that the Winnipeg Folk Festival showcased a stage where "Native North America", a selection of musical Trailblazers once again took to the stage to showcase five artists together, including Shingoose. It was his eighth appearance at the Winnipeg Folk Festival.

It was on January 12, 2021, that Shingoose entered the Spirit World.

Curtis Shingoose Jonnie a voice for social change and empowerment of Indigenous people. Recognized at the Speak Up! exhibition at the National Music Centre.