

### **Stoney Park Singers Curator's Comments:**

The Stoney Park Singers are a renowned family drum group from Mîni' Thnî, Alberta, located on Treaty 7 territory. They banded together in 1976 under the late Paul Beaver. Under his guidance, the group gained a reputation as one of the most respected and influential drum groups on the powwow trail.

Here is Stoney Park Singers, demonstrating the power of their drum with a grass dance song, right here at the Speak Up! exhibition.

That was the unmistakable sound of Stoney Park with a grass dance song.

In 1981, the leadership of the group was passed to Paul's son, the late Coleman Beaver, who carried forward his father's vision of the group with strength and dedication. The legacy of the drum group has now lasted over 50 years. They've travelled hundreds of thousands of kilometres on the powwow trail and have earned numerous championship titles and have hosted major powwow events.

A few notable achievements include three victories at the Tribes Powwow and back-to-back championships at the Schemitzun Powwow in 1993 and 1994. They were recognised as the World Champion Drum Group. Under Coleman Beaver's leadership, the group became widely celebrated for their powerful and distinctive sound.

This is Stoney Park with an aptly titled track, "Trailblazer," here at the National Music Centre's Speak Up! exhibition.

That was "Trailblazer" by Stoney Park, who were one of the first drum groups to record with Sweetgrass Records, a First Nations label based in Saskatchewan.

On the strength of their recordings and fan base, Stoney Park also help strengthen the presence of traditional and contemporary powwow in Canada's music industry. They made history by becoming the first Indigenous group to be nominated in an open category at the Juno Awards, for their album, *Audés Journey*, which was also followed by a Canadian Aboriginal Music Award nomination win in 2001 for their album *Wolf Pack*. Then in 2018, they received a prestigious Native American Music Award in the United States for their album *The Journey*.

This is Stoney Park with "The Journey" at the Speak Up! exhibition.

That was "The Journey" by Stoney Park.

In 1995, Stoney Park delivered a standout performance at the Juno Awards when they performed their composition "North American Woman." They also landed a track on a

Canadian Gift CD compilation created for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, entitled “Here and Now. ”

In 1996, Stoney Park embraced a musical collaboration with Jim Creeggan of the Barenaked Ladies on “Spider in My Room,” a project that bridged Indigenous and contemporary music. Outside of the powwow circuit, Stoney Park performed at major events including the Edmonton Folk Festival and the Aboriginal Music Awards in Winnipeg in 2014.

Let's take a listen to Stoney Park with a track entitled “Eliminator,” here at the Speak Up! exhibition.

That was “Eliminator” by Stoney Park.

Today, the group continues to travel across Turtle Island, sharing their music, culture and traditions. They also inspire future generations while honouring the legacy of those who came before. Stoney Park continue to honour the late Paul Beaver and Coleman Beaver through the power of their drum, ensuring their voices and teachings live through every song.