

Tudjaat were a groundbreaking Inuit vocal duo formed by two teenaged cousins, Madeleine Allakariallak and Phoebe Atagotaaluk in Nunavut, formerly the Northwest Territories. They were inspired by their grandmothers to keep a musical and cultural tradition alive. Tudjaat introduced audiences worldwide to Katatjaq, also known as traditional Inuit throat singing.

Madeleine was from Resolute Bay and Phoebe was from Inukjuak, Nunavik. They began singing together in Pond Inlet, where Madeline attended residential school. Throughout the 90s, their work was instrumental in reconnecting Inuit youth to their culture, by reclaiming and restoring throat singing songs, which had been suppressed by colonial policies and missionaries in northern Canada for decades.

This is Tudjaat with “Uhmma” (Up Up) a dance remix from their self-titled album released in 1995.

That was Tudjaat with “Uhmma” (Up Up), a dance remix from their breakthrough self-titled EP.

The album blended traditional throat singing with subtle contemporary arrangements, creating a new sound that resonated with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous listeners. One of the album's tracks that was widely recognized was “Kajusita” (When My Ship Comes In). It was written by Madeleine, Jon Park-Wheeler, and Randall Prescott, known for his work with trailblazer, Susan Aglukark.

The track describes the forced exile of Inuit families from northern Quebec to the High Arctic during the mid 20th century. This tragic historical event, known as the High Arctic Relocation, saw Inuit families moved by the government under difficult conditions. The song serves as a moving tribute to those who suffered and died because of a tragic government decision made in the name of Canadian sovereignty.

This is Tudjaat with “Kajusita” (When My Ship Comes In) at the National Music Centre.

That was Tudjaat with “Kajusita” (When My Ship Comes In), a moving tribute which won its producer the 1997 American Indian Film Institute Awards Best Song Award, which was also included on a United Nations compilation CD, and it was also made into a music video.

Tudjaat's legacy in Canada was cemented when they were nominated for a JUNO Award for Best Music of Aboriginal Canada in 1997. Following all these accolades, the duo went to perform across Canada, the United States and Europe.

Here's another track that highlights the groundbreaking sound of Tudjaat, highlighting their mix of contemporary music with Inuit themes. Breaking trail for new styles to follow.

Tudjaat were invited to take part on Robbie Robertson's 1998 album *Contact from the Underworld of Red Boy*, which blended Indigenous music with rock, trip hop and electronica.

Here's a clip of their collaboration, entitled "Rattle Bone."

That was Tudjaat with Robbie Robertson on his collaboration album entitled *Contact from the Underworld of Red Boy*.

The international recognition the duo received made a lot of community impact, spotlighting Tudjaat as pioneers in the global Indigenous music scene and inspired the next generation of Inuit musicians to embrace their ancestral traditions.

Throat singing is a form of musical performance. Traditionally, it consisted of two women who sing duets in close, face to face formation with no instrumental accompaniment. Here is Tudjaat with a sample of a track entitled "Traditional Throat Song Medley" at the National Music Centre's Speak Up! Exhibition.

Thank you for visiting.