

Elisapie Isaac, simply known as Elisapie is a film director, composer, singer, songwriter, and activist. Her heart and work is rooted within her home territory of the Arctic. Adopted at birth in 1977, Elisapie grew up in Salluit, Nunavik, Quebec, and moved to a camp during the summer months to hunt caribou, ptarmigan, and goose with her family. Although she's lived in Montreal since 1999, Elisapie remains deeply connected to her culture and carries the names of four strong Inuit women, including her grandmother. Through a string of projects, Elisapie has established herself as an artistic force. She first gained acclaim in 2003 as the director of her documentary "If the Weather Permits", a film which transported viewers into an Inuit origin story. The following year, she released her first album with the duo Taima winning a JUNO Award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year. She's since released *There Will Be Stars* in 2009 and *Traveling Love* in 2013, which received a Felix Award for Anglophone Album of the Year. In September of 2018, her album, *The Ballad of the Runaway Girl*, was a creative place of healing from a tumultuous postpartum depression. She found comfort and hope in ancient folk songs while reimagining the recordings as Inuit folk covers. Elisapie was shortlisted for the Polaris Prize in 2019. She wore a traditional, arnauti-design top in red that was made by Inuk designer Victoria Okpik. The garment typically features a baby pouch in the back for carrying children. She stated that she needed to feel an Inuk woman's power and also pay tribute to missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. When Elisapie wears a piece of cultural regalia or jewelry on stage, she believes it gives her a sense of power and an ability to perform her best. Among the various ancestral traditions she follows Elisapie has adopted that of naming her children after elders who have crossed over into the next world. Her children, therefore, have a strong bond with the Salluit community despite growing up in Montreal. She was also a spokesperson for the 2022 edition of Rendez-vous de la Francophonie, which ran under the theme "These Traditions That Forge Identities." Elisapie's music comes naturally, composed of poetic gesture, often driven by urgency, identity, language, grace, and love. Elisapie released Blondie's "Heart of Glass" in Inuktitut in 2023. Indigenous languages can be more literal than metaphysical. The lyrics translate to, [quote] "You have to say, the heart has become fragile" [unquote]. The song appears on *Inuktitut*, Elisapie's fourth solo effort, and it covers songs in her language by artists such as Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Fleetwood Mac, Metallica and Cyndi Lauper; a reimagining of the popular tracks on community radio airwaves throughout Nunavik. As an activist, Elisapie is contributing towards the awareness of Inuit culture, language and the realities of the Northern Arctic through her music and film. Elisapie's voice is a positive instigator for change and is recognized within NMC's Speak Up! Exhibition.