

MARY YOUNGBLOOD

~ 2002 Grammy Award Winner ~

2004 Grammy Nominee

"I am simply a vessel between Creator and this sacred instrument, the Native American Flute. Listen with an open heart and you will hear the whispers of the Ancient Ones. May their timeless voices soothe your soul." - Mary Youngblood

Mary Youngblood is a modern American Indian woman of one half Aleut (Alaskan) and one half Seminole (Floridian) descent. With her children, she currently resides in Northern California. Youngblood is often touted as the first Native American female to professionally record the Native flute.

Professional Awards

Verifying her talent and mastery of this ancient instrument traditionally played only by men, she was the first woman to win the 'Flutist of the Year' award in both 1999 and 2000 as well as the 'Best Female Artist' award at the in 2000 and "Best Producer" in 2004 at the Native American Music Awards.

Her album 'Heart of the World' won the highly regarded **INDIE Award** for 'Best Native American Recording' in 2000 and 2002 from The Association for Independent Music (AFIM).

Mary's third album, 'Beneath the Raven Moon', won a *Grammy Award in 2002*. *"This has been an incredible journey and I am honored to be in such good company,"* Mary stated.

Recordings

Each of Mary's four recordings is different stylistically from one another.

- Her debut album, '**The Offering**,' is a solo flute recording that was recorded live to DAT in the huge underground chamber of the Moaning Cavern in California. These natural acoustics lend an amazing echo and organic quality to the distinctly memorable melodies that Youngblood creates with her flutes.

"In addition to the haunting sounds of various handcrafted wooden flutes, the listener can occasionally hear the drip of water in the cavern, which adds a surreal you-are-there feeling." -Monterey County Herald News

- '**Heart of the World**' found Mary weaving her flute melodies with the lush accompaniment of guitar, percussion, and the exquisite voice of Joanne Shenandoah. The impetus for this recording is the U'wa people of the Rainforest in South America who are struggling to save their land from drilling development

by oil companies. Heart of the World is the name the U'wa have given their native land in South America and proceeds from each sale of this album benefit their resistance struggle.

"Mary Youngblood's solo album is a vibrant, pulsating masterpiece," - Music critic Laurence Washington

- Mary's third album, '**Beneath the Raven Moon**', can be considered a poetic concept album. The title of each track is a line from a poem written by Mary. Thematically, this album is all about the human condition, growth, interaction, and journeys. For the first time ever, this album also showcases Mary's strong voice harmonizing along with her many flutes. Further instrumentation is arranged by award winning producer Tom Wasinger who has worked on each one of Mary's three previous albums. 'Beneath the Raven Moon' explores Youngblood's exemplary flute playing with other American music styles such as Classical and Blues – two of Youngblood's favorite genres.
- In her most recent album, '**Feed the Fire**', Mary returns with fresh performances on Native American flute with her signature melodies again framed in captivating arrangements spanning a variety of musical styles. Mary is heard for the first time performing on piano and alto flute, and offers sweet vocals with original lyrics on two songs. With special guest appearances by Ian Anderson (of Jethro Tull), Bill Miller, and Joanne Shenandoah, Feed The Fire is full of energy, warmth and passion. 'Feed the Fire' has also been nominated for the 2004 Grammy Awards.

In addition to her own albums, Mary is featured on several compilation soundtracks, including the popular IMAX film '**Wolves**'. She also performed on Joanne Shenandoah's award-winning children's album, '**All Spirits Sing**'. Her music graces the movie '**Naturally Native**', which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival. She was in distinguished company on this soundtrack, working with Rita Coolidge, Bill Miller, Joanne Shenandoah, Maria Muldar, and Donna Summer. The television public was first introduced to Mary's music on a PBS special produced by KVIE (Sacramento, CA) titled '**American Indian Circles of Wisdom**', which aired widely across the country.

"There's something about the sound of a Native American flute that can be absolutely enchanting and in the hands of a master like Mary Youngblood, the sound ably soothes tired bodies and souls." - Billboard Magazine Review: Feb. 2, 2002

Mary's Background

Mary Youngblood has a lifetime of musicianship behind her. She started with piano lessons at age six, violin at eight, followed by classical flute and guitar at ten. She turned professional only 38 days after receiving her first flute!

As an adult, when Mary received her first wooden Native flute, she was driven to pursue the mastery of this instrument so tied to her own heritage. Now years later with four

unique and accomplished albums under her belt, she has over 125 hand-carved Native flutes in her collection and uses a wide variety of them throughout every one of her albums. Each of her flutes is masterfully crafted from different types of wood, bringing a unique sound and texture to each song.

When Mary performs, it takes only a moment to acknowledge the profound spirituality of the sacred Native American flute and its historical courtship and wooing attributes. Her haunting music is much more than a song ... it's liquid poetry, a prayer. Mary takes little credit for the intense emotions people feel when they listen to her music.

"I am only a vessel between the Creator and this instrument. As a sculptor would tell you, the clay has a spirit of its own and decides what it will become; so it is with the flute. These songs came from those who walked before me." - Mary Youngblood