

from 'Canadian Mosaic'

SSA, drum

TSIMSHIAN WELCOME CHANT

West coast First Nations

AT610.4

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Vigorously ♩ = 84 m.1-5 *poco rubato*

S **A**

Ee - ya - ho - ho ee - ya heh - eh!

'echo' (may be performed off-stage; altos then enter)

S **A**

Ee - ya - ho - ho ee - ya heh - eh!

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3 *f accented throughout* *(melody)*

S **A**

Ee - eh yah ha - ha ha hee - yah-heh! Ee - yah - ha - ha ee - ya - heh!

Ee - eh yah ha - ha ha hee - yah-heh! Ee - yah - ha - ha ee - ya - heh!

5 *tempo stricto*

Dr.

soft mallet

S

Ee - yah - ah - ah ee - ya - heh!

A

Ee - yah - ah - ah ee - ya - heh!

This pattern is performed on a small drum throughout the piece.

In 1920 Canadian musicologist Marius Barbeau wrote of the West Coast Indians "(Their) songs still conjure up vivid tribal recollections... Singing reached out for greater things and larger spaces".

This song of welcome comes from the Tsimshian Indians who live along the Nass River in British Columbia. It was performed during 'potlatches' - lavish feasts which became almost competitive in their endeavour to outdo their neighbour. The song was sung as the robed chief appeared. It roughly translates as "The people of Gidaranitzeh welcome the chief"

7

Dr.

S *f*

S2

A *f* (melody)

A2

Soo-wa-deh - es Gi - da - ra - nit - zeh!

Soo-wa-deh-es Gi - da - ra - nit - zeh!

Soo-wa-deh - es Gi - da - ra - nit - zeh!

Soo-wa-deh - es Gi - da - ra - nit - zeh!

Soo-wa-deh - es Gi - da - ra - nit - zeh!

*The melody line does not necessarily have to predominate.