



DANIEL TLEN



A traditional Southern Tutchone performer, the love of music and culture has been a driving force in **Daniel Tlen's** life. Daniel was born in Burwash Landing, Yukon, and grew up in both Burwash and Whitehorse.

Early on in his life, Daniel embraced the stories told to him by his Elders, and learned the traditional songs of the Southern Tutchone. He discovered the guitar in his mid-teens and embraced the music of his generation – Gordon Lightfoot, Bob Dylan, and Credence Clearwater Revival.

His desire to be a folk musician led him to Toronto, but it was the death of his grandmother that drew him back to his home in the Yukon. “I realized that with her died a lot of history, knowledge and language.”

This loss proved the catalyst that led to his life's work – the revitalization of his culture. Daniel studied linguistics at the University of Victoria, and returned to the Yukon to share his knowledge in public schools, at Yukon College, and as a consultant for native language curriculum and programming.

Daniel's extensive musical career has taken him to some prestigious stages, including Expo '86 in Vancouver and the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. It was there that he sang 'O Canada' in Southern Tutchone during the opening ceremonies before an estimated television audience of two billion.

His music is at once traditional and contemporary. Daniel performs solo or with a band, playing traditional and original Southern Tutchone songs with drum or guitar. His ongoing goal in life is to keep his culture strong with the “cultural underpinning an old culture gives you.”