



Featuring the award-winning Live at Massey Hall films, these free films offer insight into the Canadian music scene, with behind the scenes interviews with artists, stellar performances, plus short curriculum connected guides with pre- and post-viewing activities for select films. Activities can be completed synchronously or asynchronously, in-school or at-home.

Suggested age: Secondary school, some concerts contain explicit language. See specific details, notes, and highlights in the "Concert Highlights" section below.

TANYA TAGAQ



Tanya Tagaq, CM, throat singer, experimental musician, painter, novelist (born May 5, 1975 in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut). An experimental artist who has achieved a level of mainstream crossover success, Tanya Tagaq blends Inuit throat singing (traditionally done as a duet) with electronic, classical, punk and rock music. A JUNO Award-, Canadian Aboriginal Music Award-, and Polaris Music Prize-winner, Tagaq is part of what has been called the "Indigenous Music Renaissance" — an innovative new generation of Indigenous artists in Canada. She is also an acclaimed author and a Member of the Order of Canada.

TALKING POINTS

Choose a song from the film and listen closely to the piece. What is the message of the song? How does Tanya Tagaq use pauses, breathing, and vocal changes to reinforce the message of the piece? Share your interpretation of the song.

Listening to the film, Tanya Tagaq uses the technique of throat singing in her performance. What is throat singing? How is throat singing different than other forms of singing?

Which groups traditionally perform throat singing in Canada and internationally?

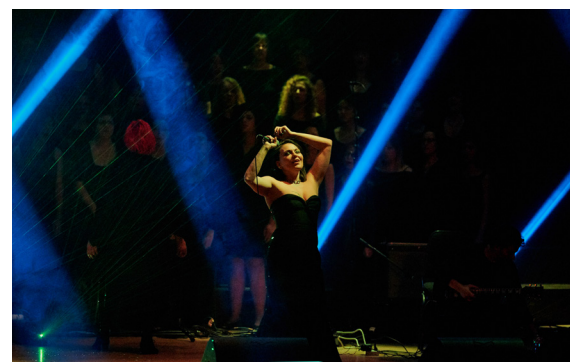
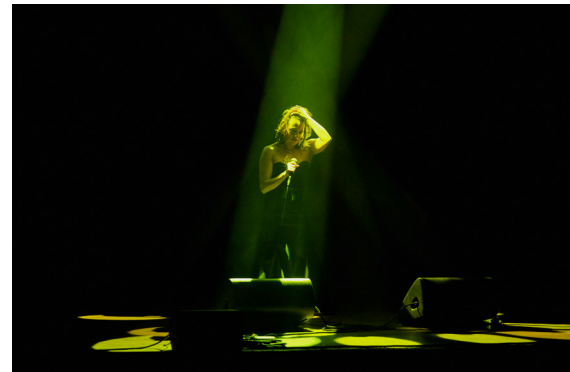
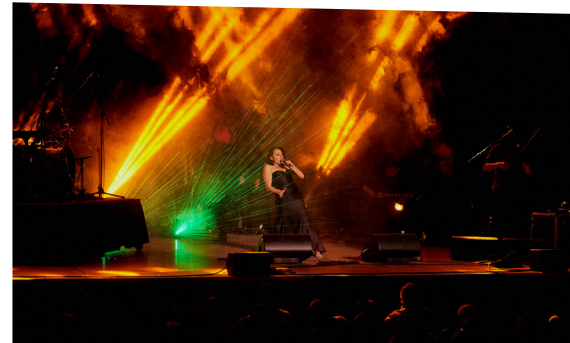
Tanya Tagaq mentions in the film that her throat singing is controversial. Why would her throat singing be controversial?

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES

01:00 - Swearing

11:00 - Discussion on controversy surrounding non-traditional throat singing

13:00 - Swearing



ACTIVITY 1

Choose a five minute section of Tanya Tagaq's performance, listen to the portion you've chosen three times to absorb the mood of the music. Use the music as a backdrop, and write a story that accompanies the music. Alternatively, make an art piece that tells the story of the song. Share your creation with your peers.

ACTIVITY 2

Katajjaq traditionally consists of two women singing back and forth, sharing ideas and sounds. The sounds might emulate sounds in nature, be actual words or nonsense syllables. Some of the songs tell a story and other songs are sung more as a game, like the game of "telephone". Building on the idea of songs as messages, create a playlist to share with another student. Select songs to try to create a message. Think of the songs as a symbol for words and ideas. After sharing your song list, discuss each other's playlist of songs and reveal your message. Why did you choose each song and how they were symbolic of your ideas and message?

ACTIVITY 3

Tanya Tagaq uses music to challenge and confront the listener. She uses music to shine a light on injustices that are often uncomfortable for the listener. In her most recent album she sings about rape (of both women and of the land itself), and demands justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, as well as Indigenous peoples' land rights. Listening to her performance in the film, how does Tanya Tagaq use her songs to challenge our understanding of music? Analyze the tempo, rhythm, and sounds to think about the meaning she wants to share with the listener.

ACTIVITY 4

Choose a current issue that you feel passionate about and where you would like to see social change. Reflecting on Tanya Tagaq's use of different genres, tempo, melody, and cadence to challenge our understanding of music, and review these great songwriting tips to develop a deeper understanding of protest music.

Try writing your own protest songs and share them as a group. You can write a whole song, a verse, or a chorus - it's up to you!



STAFF INTERVIEW Jill Taylor, Assistant Manager, Food and Beverage Department

- ◆ *What is your role at Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

I am an Assistant Manager in the Food and Beverage Department.

- ◆ *How did you get into the world of Food & Beverage?*

I worked a few jobs as a teenager and then retail and customer service in record and art supply stores while I was at University. I started as an usher at Massey Hall and worked my way into the department as a bartender because of my experience at another venue.

- ◆ *Tell us more about your education, career path, and interests.*

I had always been interested in the arts, so I went to OCAD, where I obtained a Bachelor of Design with an Advertising Major. However, I ultimately wasn't interested in the world of Corporate Advertising. I wanted to work around the world of music, so Massey Hall was a good fit for me. I have always been an avid concert-goer and record collector and somehow wanted to contribute to the arts sector. I learned a lot about inventory systems and customer service at my previous jobs, which really helped me move up to my current position.

- ◆ *How were you involved in Tanya Tagaq's Live at Massey Hall?*

I was in charge of Food and Beverage for that concert. Because it's a show, we produced in addition to my regular duties managing the bars and staff. I did things like advance the backstage rider, which is the artist's requirements, with the artist management to make sure they had everything they needed backstage.

- ◆ *Who do you work with at the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

Everyone! Putting on events for me means working with and coordinating with a lot of people from other departments. I work with Programming, Event Coordinators, finance, Front of House management, Security, Artist management and representatives, and my staff to prepare and work the event. I have a team of part-time employees I rely on to make everything work in my department.

- ◆ *What is some advice you have for someone interested in pursuing a career in Food & Beverage?*

It's hard work, but it's fun if you work well with a team. If you plan on moving up, you need to learn what goes on in the background. Service only goes well with planning and preparation. You will need to be good with accounting, inventory management, and time management. A lot goes into even a simple service model.

- ◆ *What is your favorite part of your job?*

It's two things; I like working with my team; it's essential to remember a manager is just a different role on the same team. I work odd hours and sometimes long days, but I always like working with my staff. The other thing I love about my job is that it's at a performing arts venue. Live music is magic to me. I love contributing my part to the experience we give our patrons. I know how special their night is to them when they come to a concert. I love talking to excited patrons about the show they're at or other great shows they saw at the Hall. It makes me proud that Massey is so important to the people who see performances there.

- ◆ *What is your favorite memory of the Halls?*

There are so many to choose from! Seeing Joni Mitchell perform a song is pretty high up on the list, though, and Patti Smith too. A lot of my favorite memories are just of those moments when the whole audience sings together. It's magic every time.

- ◆ *Is there any other comments you would like to share with student readers?*

That you can work your way up, you learn a lot on your way, and that if you're able to be around something you care about at work, it feels less like work. I'm really proud of what we do as a corporation!

Photos by Malcolm Cook

