

## Meet the Grammy-Nominated Black Lodge Singers!



"Native Drumming is a concerto for traditional pow-wow drum with vocal work by the Black Lodge Singers. The effect of combining these two discrete and technically opposing musical traditions is powerful and exotic. An impressive effort."

*NAPRA Review*

The Black Lodge Singers have established themselves as one of the most respected northern-style drum groups on the pow-wow circuit today. The multi-talented family has received acclaim for its drumming, songwriting, dancing, and their new album, "More Kids' Pow-Wow Songs," has recently garnered the group its third Grammy nomination. Comprised of Kenny Scabby Robe (Blackfeet), his wife Louise (Yakima), and their 12 sons, the Black Lodge Singers are highly in demand as a host drum throughout the United States and Canada.

Kenny Scabby Robe is noted on the pow-wow circuit as one of the leading songwriters, though his talent doesn't end there. The musician and group leader has also received accolades for his dancing. For three years in a row, Kenny won the Champion Grass Dance competition in the 50-and-over category at the Schmetizum Pow-wow, one of the largest annual events on the pow-wow circuit.

Louise Scabby Robe is noted for her skills as a prize-winning Woman's Traditional Dancer, as well. Two of Kenny's sons, John and Elgin, are also known for their prolific original songwriting and beautiful singing voices, proving that this family is in no short supply of talent. To add to its many achievements, the Scabby Robe family has also placed second in the Hand Drum competition at the Schmetizum pow-wow.

With over 20 albums to their credit, the Black Lodge Singers were Grammy Award finalists in 1994 in the Best Traditional Folk Album category for their collaboration with R. Carlos Nakai and William Eaton on the album, "Ancestral Voices." The group also has two previous Grammy

nominations for "Weasel Tail's Dream" (2002) and "Tribute to the Elders" (2001). Their recent albums include, "The People Dance," "Enter the Circle: Pow-Wow Songs Recorded Live at Coeur D'Alene," "Round Dance Tonight!" and "Kid's Pow-Wow Songs," which displays their creativity and innovation as a traditional drum group with original compositions.

Never ones to shy from new challenges, they performed with the Phoenix Symphony in the world debut of the classical composition, "Native Drumming," which was written especially for their drums, voices and orchestra. Composer James DeMars, who has written several classical compositions for R. Carlos Nakai (recorded on Spirit Horses and Native Tapestry), met with the Black Lodge Singers at their home pow-wow in White Swan, Washington to learn their singing

style and song structure to be able to compose these works.

This critically acclaimed piece was recently released on "Two World Concerto," to much fanfare. "Native Drumming is...mesmerizing, haunting, hair-raising and astonishing...just plain gorgeous in its sonics, with the strings racing over the singer-drummer like a veil of night over the desert... if the powers that be don't record this thing, they're nuts," wrote Kenneth LaFave in Arizona Republic.

When not on the pow-wow trail, the Scabby Robe family resides in Warm Springs, Washington on the Yakama Reservation. ♣

For more information on the Black Lodge Singers visit [www.canyonrecords.com](http://www.canyonrecords.com)

