

PAMYUA

 **Global Voices**
CAPITOL GLOBAL VOICES SERIES

RED & CAROLYN
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PAMYUA

Pamyua was formed in April 1995 by brothers Phillip and Stephen Blanchett.

The brothers stumbled upon a musical concept to blend Inuit drum/dance melodies with R&B vocal styling and arrangements. The duo immediately began sharing their performance around Alaska and collaborating with like-minded artists.

Later that year Ossie Kairaiuk permanently joined the group and in the spring of 1996 Karina Moeller permanently joined. Today the quartet works with world-class musicians from Alaska and Denmark and travels the world sharing their blend of cultural harmony.

Pamyua showcases Inuit culture through music and dance. The show is a platform to share indigenous knowledge and history. Their style derives from

traditional melodies reinterpreted with contemporary vocalization and instrumentation. Often described as "Inuit Soul Music," Pamyua has discovered their own genre.

Band members are proud to represent Indigenous culture. The group believes unity is possible through music and dance. Together, each member works to interpret Inuit traditions masterfully with joy and sincerity. The response to this message is tremendous as the group is a symbol of pride for Alaska's indigenous people and to all who see them perform.

Pamyua's performances aim to honor and share indigenous traditions through ceremony, songs, and dance.

Pamyua's music is self-described as "tribal funk", "world music" and "Inuit soul music", drawing inspiration from Russian Orthodox chants, traditional Inuit music, R&B and most notably South African male choral group, Ladysmith Black Mambazo. An early influence was the African American gospel played in their father's church in Wasilla, Alaska. Most of their songs are based on traditional Yupik, Inuit and Greenlandic chants, but the group is well known for reinterpreting them in modern styles, such as the song "Cayauqa Nauwa", which has been performed a cappella (mengluni, 1998) and with Pacific Islander influences (Caught in the Act, 2003), as well as traditionally (Drums of the North, 2005). Integral to their staged performances is instrumentation, such as the Cayuqa drum, and mask dancing which evokes and honors traditional Yup'ik dancing.

MEET THE ARTISTS

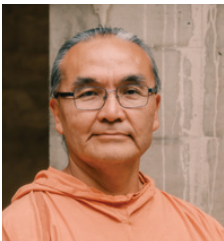


Phillip is an original co-founder of Pamyua. Originally from Mamterilleq (Bethel), he has family ties to Nunapitchuk, in addition to many communities throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. A proud husband and father, he now lives in Anchorage with his family.

Phillip takes joy in his identity as a Yup'ik performing artist and his work to share the knowledge of his ancestors through music and dance.



Qacung (Stephen) is an original co-founder of Pamyua. He is the son of a strong Yup'ik Inuit mother who brought him up in the traditional ways of his Yup'ik ancestors; and a strong African-American father who taught him to be proud of his Black heritage. Qacung considers himself to be a global citizen whose Yup'ik and Black roots guide his leadership and artistic vision.



Ossie - aka, Aassanaaq - is a hilarious Yup'ik dancer and prolific composer of Pamyua's most popular songs. The fun-loving Bubble Gum music video is his latest hit. Ossie was raised in Chefnak (pop. 418) and now lives in Anchorage.

He is a master Yup'ik drum maker and illustrator, leads a traditional Yup'ik dance group, and is a well known for his work throughout the greater Alaska Native community.





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The Capitol Theatre Committee wishes to honor our Capitol Kids and Global Voices underwriters for their community leadership and commitment to our Theatre and its role in the quality-of-life of our valley.