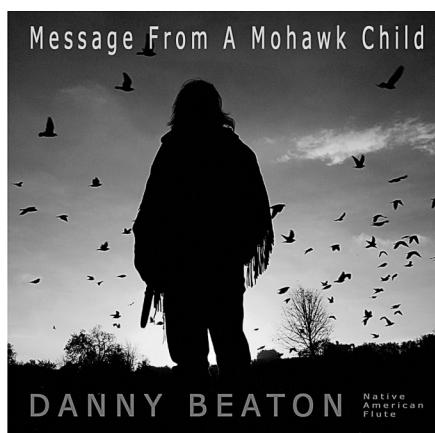


A timeless message about the environment

BY KATHY FIGUEROA
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The cover art for Danny Beaton's *Message from a Mohawk Child*./Submitted



ple to protect the environment and Mother Earth for the sake of the children. The first notes played on this piece are performed on a flute of bird's eye maple. Handmade Cherokee flutes are used to create the remainder of the music on the CD, including the trilling of birds in the background. The sound quality is exceptionally clear.

The second track contains a message from Mohawk spiritual leader, Tom Porter. He speaks simply and clearly about his hope that all the diverse groups of people in the world could, one day, live together in peace, the way different flowers exist together in a garden.

Grants from Canadian Arts councils enabled Danny to study native American flute in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Chief Arnie General, an Onondaga Elder from the Six Nations territo-

ry, first taught him traditional Iroquois songs.

"This CD is the voice of all positive people who are concerned about environmental protection, OUR Sacred Mother Earth," states Danny, unequivocally.

Eric Nooey, of the American Indian Institute, in Montana, has described Danny's CD as, "a work of art, every song is perfect, even the credits, graphics and photographs are all thought out to honour our elders and people of our Traditional Circle."

An accomplished writer, photographer, and filmmaker, Beaton has spent much of his life documenting and recording native spiritual leaders from across North America.

"I'm preserving what's left of the culture here, before it disappears," he says.

His articles and pictures appear frequently in aboriginal publications, including *First*

Nations Drum and *News From Indian Country*. Displayed at various locations around Toronto, his photographs are also mounted in a permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum, in the U.S.

A love of photography extended to film making, which resulted in four films about native culture and spirituality: *Indigenous Restoration* (1992), *Mohawk Wisdom Keepers* (2000), *The Iroquois Speak Out For Mother Earth* (2002), and *The Second Thanksgiving* (2004). His productions have been broadcast on national television, including Vision TV and APTN.

A recurring theme found throughout his work, whether it be music, writing, or film, is the necessity of protecting our environment and honouring Mother Earth. He makes frequent public presentations in schools and to other organizations across Ontario to speak about environmental concerns. He has also addressed audiences in the U.S., South America, the U.K., and Japan.

For more information about Danny and his work, or to order his CD or films, please write to: Danny Beaton, The Artists/Environment Forum, 296 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2M7 or visit his website at: www.dannybeaton.ca

He may also be contacted by telephone at (416) 921-0014 or e-mail at: beatondanny@yahoo.ca

Message From A Mohawk Child is a beautiful and eloquent reminder to all of us about something that is very important and is a message well worth listening to.