

I attended AICRC(American Indian Child Resource Center) Laney Pow Wow event. It happened at Laney college, Oakland on December 3, 2017, from 12 pm to 5 pm. The event head staff include Tommy Phillips(Head Man), Shirley “Kippi” Begay(Head Women),Jonathan Perdiguerra (Head young Man), Anavey Smith (Head young women), Marc Goggles-Keka (Head Ground Dancer), Gene Newman (Arena Director), Erik Kimple(MC), All Nation (Host Northern drum), Red Buffalo (Host Southern Drum). They performed Native American Pow Wow. The main instrument of Native music is a frame drum. A frame drum is a membranophone which made from animal skin that stretched over a wooden frame.

Native American believed that human cannot compose new music. But there are many possible occasion which is suitable for new music for example shamans. Many Native American communities learn songs from their neighbors but in every case, music is a gift. Some music has melodies which you can enjoy but cannot understand and PowWow is one of them. There were several singers who were singing melodies in monophonic texture. The singer was singing same notes without any chord at the same time. I could not understand lyrics. The lyrics are vocables which have not general meaning. “ Musical phrases often have a descending contour, starting on a relatively high pitch and ending on a relatively low pitch. Many Native American songs use a pentatonic scale, or five-note scale, like the melody of the hymn 'Amazing Grace” (study.com).


I enjoyed this concert most because Native American music connected to their roots that's reveal full history of them. It was sunny and windy day,when I reached there. There were food stall and many children dressed up in native Indians style. Everything has spiritual meaning for native people especially when it comes to the expression of culture. They wear “dance Regalia” which is a powerful symbol of Native American identity. A dance regalia dress includes eagle feather, and parts and animals hide. In Powwow dance entry start with head man and women followed by elders and men dancer followed by women. The dance started with one man who beat drum and sings once alone then another man started to sing and beat the drum in same beat. During the women dance, They were dancing on toes only and keep moving one place to another place holding bird fur in her hands. There were several men around one big drum and beating the drum in the same beat with a stick which they held with one hand. There were small children around 6 - 10 years old who were dressed up as native Indian and looking cute that was a most adorable moment for me. Even I could not understand Native American Powwow lyrics but I could feel ritual believed behind it.

Many songs are sung in native American language even new composed but these songs are the reminder of rich Heritage. Although, Most of Powwow dance are social dance which might have a different meaning that older but Importance of dance is remain same.


Selfie :



Event Notice:

 **American Indian Child Resource Center**
November 28 at 2:06pm · 🌐

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American Indian Child Resource Center
-POW WOV-
December 2nd & 3rd 2017
Laney College Gym, Oakland, CA
Sat: 12pm-9pm Sun: 12pm-5pm

Honoring Oakland's Community Educators
Sat., Dec 2nd @ 4pm

John Siskiller Evelyn Lamente Linda Aramaydo Carol Wahpepah Sonny Aramaydo

Head Staff:
Head Man: Tommy Phillips Head Woman: Shirley "Kippi" Begay
Head Young Man: Jonathan Perdiguerro Head Young Woman: Anavey Smith
Head Gourd Dancer: Marc Goggles-Keka
Arena Director: Gene Newman MC: Erik Kimple
Host Northern Drum: All Nations Host Southern Drum: Red Buffalo
Vendor Information Contact: Mary Trimble Norris (510) 208-1870 x 305

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