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Throat Singing in Kangirsuk

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Throat Singing in Kangirsuk

Abstract

This is a review of the Sundance short film, *Throat Singing in Kangirsuk* (2019), directed by Eva Kaukai and Manon Chamberland.

Author Notes

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Throat Singing in Kangirsuk (2019), dir. Eva Kaukai and Manon Chamberland

Two Inuit girls from the Quebec Arctic have made a short movie of themselves throat singing. Eva Kaukai (18) and Manon Chamberland (17) film themselves throat singing while vistas of the Arctic appear in the background.

Throat singing or chanting is an unusual form of vocalization in which the singer may produce two or more notes at the same time. Throat singing imitates the sounds of nature or the sounds of animals. Taught by elders to young people, throat singing is designed to connect the singers to their land as well as to show the strength and culture of the Inuit people. It is most often sung by women and as a duet, although it may be a group activity. Throat singing is also used as a game in which the singers try to make each other laugh. Once banned, throat singing is making a comeback through young Inuits like Eva and Manon.

Throat singing is a fine example of the importance of music to religions and cultures.