



## UMEKO ANDO Ihunke

Label

**PINGIPUNG**

Format

**CD**

Catalog Number

**PING 060CD**

EAN

4250101463402



Store Price

**\$17.39**

Release Date

**02/16/24**

Territory

**NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE**

Genre

**FILE UNDER - A - WORLD**



**PINGIPUNG**

### DESCRIPTION

**Umeko Ando** (1932-2004) was a folk singer from Japan. She was a representative of the Ainu culture on the Hokkaido Island in the north of Japan. *Ihunke* is her first album which was recorded with the Ainu musician and dub producer **Oki Kano** in 2000. The 16 Ainu songs on *Ihunke* are delicate, natural gems. They are built on Oki Kano's tonkori patterns (a five-string harp), over which Umeko Ando develops her repetitive, mantric vocals, often in a call-and-response manner. Oki Kano is one of very few professional tonkori players who performs worldwide with his **Oki Dub Ainu Band**. The songs possess a mystical energy – when crows call accurately with Ando's brittle voice in the first song, it seems like natural powers join in with her music. Her voice sounds like animals of the sky and the forest. Oki Kano: "It was a lot of fun to record with Umeko Ando. Many Ainu hesitate to break from tradition – if Umeko hadn't been so flexible to work with the younger generation and recording technology, this album would never have happened. Our sessions were intense, and we were proud and happy about making such beautiful music." Only recently (in 2008) have the Ainu officially been acknowledged as indigenous people who are culturally independent from Japan. This record is an example of how their music has been passed on through generations in the underground Ainu communities while it was oppressed by the Japanese hegemony. It deserves a huge audience. Includes liner notes and download code.

### TRACKLISTING

01. Pekanpe Uk (5:20)
02. Ihunke (3:37)
03. Hutare Chui (2:21)
04. Rewrew (3:20)
05. Iyomante Upopo (5:55)
06. Mukkuri 1 (2:34)
07. Yaisama (2:37)
08. Mukkuri 2 (3:07)
09. Saraba - Iya Ko Ko (6:02)
10. Sarorun Rimse (3:10)
11. Battaki (4:22)
12. Kusuep Kamuy (0:10)
13. Herutun Rutun (3:48)
14. Chup Kawa Kamuy Ran (4:33)
15. Hekuri Sarari (3:07)
16. Atuy So Kata (Extended Version) (3:52)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Pingipung present a reissue of the first release of Japanese folk singer **Umeko Ando**, *Ihunke*.
- Ando (1932-2004) was a representative of the Ainu culture on the Hokkaido Island in the north of Japan.
- Umeko Ando develops her repetitive, mantric vocals, often in a call-and-response manner, over Oki Kano's tonkori patterns.
- Recorded with the Ainu musician and dub producer **Oki Kano** in 2000. Includes liner notes and download code.

Also available:

(PING 060LP) ANDO, UMEKO: *Ihunke* 2LP [880319962714]

(PING 081LP) ANDO, UMEKO: *Upopo Sanke* 2LP [4250101452475]

**Press Contact:** [publicity@forcedexposure.com](mailto:publicity@forcedexposure.com)

Exclusively Distributed by

**FORCED EXPOSURE**

60 Lowell St, Arlington, MA 02476  
ph: (781) 321-0320 • fx: (781) 321-0321  
[fe@forcedexposure.com](mailto:fe@forcedexposure.com)