



UMEKO ANDO Upopo Sanke

Label

PINGIPUNG

Format

CD

Catalog Number

PING 081CD

EAN

4250101463419



Store Price

\$17.39

Release Date

02/16/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - A - WORLD



DESCRIPTION

Upopo Sanke means "Let's sing a song" in the Ainu language. **Umeko Ando** (1932-2004) was one of the best-known artists of the Ainu, an indigenous, long-suppressed community in northern Japan. She sings their traditional songs together with **Oki Kano** on the Tonkori harp, who also recorded the album. The two are supported by members of the female vocal group **Marewrew** as well as Ainu percussionists, a string player and a male singer who provides rhythmic shouts and also throat singing. The call-and-response structure of many of the songs is performed with a mantric quality in a vocal style that is perhaps best described as elastic and breathing. There seems to be a gentle smile in every note and syllable. This music softly hits the heart. *Upopo Sanke* was recorded on a farm in Tokachi in the summer of 2003. You hear dogs barking, a distant thunderstorm and voices imitating animals. The liner notes that accompany the double-LP release gather the anecdotal memories of Umeko Ando and Oki Kano about the stories of the 14 songs. Oki Kano is a musical ambassador of the Ainu culture who tours worldwide with his **Oki Dub Ainu Band** and also gives solo concerts, always playing the Tonkori, the five-stringed Ainu harp. The Ainu have suffered from the oppression of their culture and language by Japan, especially since the 18th and 19th centuries. Only recently, in 2008, were the Ainu officially recognized again as an indigenous people culturally independent of Japan. As a result of the marginalization, there are now only a few hundred native speakers of the Ainu language left, making it a particularly worthy object of preservation.

TRACKLISTING

01. Chorakkun (2:50)
02. Eri Rimse (4:10)
03. Saranpe (4:53)
04. Iuta Upopo (6:22)
05. Suchochoy (4:52)
06. Chup Kamuy Ho (1:15)
07. Sarukiusinay Kotan (3:20)
08. Utari Opun Parewa (3:58)
09. Mukkuri Hawehe (2:58)
10. Emusi Rimse (3:44)
11. Ku Rimse (4:57)
12. Herekan Ho (3:13)
13. Rera Suye (0:47)
14. Aruo (5:29)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Umeko Ando** (1932-2004) was one of the best-known artists of the Ainu, an indigenous, long-suppressed community in northern Japan.
- She sings their traditional songs together with **Oki Kano** on the Tonkori harp, who also recorded the album.
- The two are supported by members of the female vocal group **Marewrew** as well as Ainu percussionists, a string player and a male singer who provides rhythmic shouts and also throat singing.
- *Upopo Sanke* was recorded on a farm in Tokachi in the summer of 2003.

Also available:

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

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

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