

Tribal voices added to National Recording Registry

Recordings of Tribal ancestors joined the likes of rapper Jay-Z, singer Cyndi Lauper and jazz saxophonist Dexter Gordon in being added to the Library of Congress' National Recording Registry on March 20.

Melville Jacob's collection of Pacific Northwest Native Americans, recorded between 1929 and '39, will be preserved for future generations.

Jacobs was a folklorist, linguist and an anthropology professor at the University Washington. For more than a decade he conducted field research among the Native American Tribes of the Pacific Northwest, studying the music and language of the Alsea, Chinook Jargon, Clackamas Chinook, Hanis and Miluk Coos, Kalapuya, Molalla, Sahaptin, Tillamook Salish, Upper Umpqua and Galice Creek Athabaskan.

He made almost 170 recordings on wax cylinders and acetate discs of the Tribes' oral traditions, in many cases documenting what were the last speakers of those languages. This audio preservation has been key to many Tribes' efforts to recapture their history.

The Library of Congress named 25 audio recordings to be inducted to the Registry, a compendium of sound recordings deemed representative of America's artistic, cultural and historic treasures. The recordings in the Registry, which span all genres – from rock, pop, jazz, classical, country and gospel to Broadway and movies, radio and news broadcasts, and comedy albums – have been recognized as vital to our nation's audio legacy.

Also included among this year's additions: Hit songs by Sam & Dave and Earth Wind & Fire, music from the film "Super Fly," the classic radio western series "Gunsmoke," and a recording of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy announcing to an anguished Indianapolis crowd that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been killed.

"The National Recording Registry honors the music that enriches our souls, the voices that tell our stories and the sounds that mirror our lives," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "The Library of Congress and its many collaborators are working to preserve these sounds and moments in time, which reflect our past, present and future." ■

Fund seeking Hatfield Fellowship applicants

Applications for the 2019-20 Hatfield Fellowship program are being accepted through Tuesday, April 30. The fellowship program is funded by Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Each year, Spirit Mountain Community Fund sponsors a Native American to serve as the Hatfield Fellow and intern in a congressional office. Placement of the Fellow rotates through the Oregon congressional delegation to enhance the mutual understanding between leadership in Washington, D.C., and Indian Country.

Fellows are given an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of how to navigate the political process in Washington while working on issues that directly affect Native Americans.

The Hatfield Fellow will begin his or her Capitol Hill experience in November 2019 with a month-long orientation at the American Political Science Association followed by an eight-month term in an Oregon congressional office. The fellowship includes a monthly stipend, and relocation and travel expenses.

The opportunity is extended to Tribal members from the nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, as well as members of Tribes in Idaho, Washington, and Montana. Preference will be given to members of Oregon Tribes. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree (or graduating in June 2019) and be at least 21 to apply.

The Hatfield Fellowship was created in 1998 to honor Senator Mark Hatfield's public service to Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. For more information about the program or to apply, visit thecommunityfund.com/grants-programs/hatfield-fellowship/or or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMXL_nwpx-o&t=4s to view a Hatfield Fellowship informational video. ■

MARRIAGES IN TRIBAL COURT

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