

Haida Songs

Robert Davidson – Clip 5

I think about the mid '70's I started to be interested in Haida song. In 1969 when the elders were practicing for the totem pole raising in Massett I would record some of that song. In later years I would listen to those songs and I would really want to learn those songs. When I started to mimic the sounds and mimic the words I would sing in front of my grandmother and she would just smile, then she would correct me on the pronunciation of the words. She would give me the words and I would listen to the tune with my grandfather on the tape and I put them together and sing [it] again in front of her. She helped me in that way. I felt there was something growing, there was something....a desire to understand Haida ceremony was growing from that time period.