

Nuuchahnulth learning songs*
by various authors
compiled by the Somass Valley Language Circle
2022

These Nuuchahnulth songs are shared for the purposes of learning, teaching, and promoting the language. Please cite authors, singers, and other creators appropriately when you use these songs.

The songs are listed roughly from traditional songs, to new songs in traditional styles, to new Western-style songs, to Nuuchahnulth translations of Western songs.

1. Aren't you from heaven?

author unknown, sung by Tom Curley, recorded by Adam Werle
with support from Ehattesaht-Chinehkint First Nation

wikḥaak q ^w aa histaqšič̣a. Aren't you from heaven?
ḥuucāḥi ḥuucāḥi. So beautiful.
hay wikḥaak q ^w aa nisaanš. Aren't you an angel?

The meaning of *ḥuucāḥi ḥuucāḥi* is uncertain. There is audio of Tom explaining this song. AW: Tom, can you clarify please who that song is for? The song that goes, *wikḥaak q^waa histaqšič̣a hinaayič̣a*. TC: ḥuu?atupmitwa?iš?aḥ ḥuk^wiīḥ ḥaḥkuu nuuk?ii ḥu?um?iqsu, ḥuunuuḥ ḥin ḥayaḥu?aaḥmit ma?iḥqac?is?i. • They say that mothers made this song for a little boy, because they were welcoming him.

2. I miss you

author unknown, sung by Tom Curley, recorded by Adam Werle
with support from BC School District 84 and Ehattesaht-Chinehkint First Nation

ḥa?im?aḥquus waḥič̣uḥ,	When I first fall asleep,
ḥaacsuwi?aḥsiš suḥa.	I see your face.
wiiyīič̣i?aḥsiš suḥa.	I miss you.
ḥuucīḥs?aaḥ suḥa.	I often think of you.
yaa?akuksiš suḥa.	I love you.

There is audio of Tom explaining this song.

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3. Nuuchahnulth alphabet song

by Caroline Little, sung by Lena Ross, recorded by Adam Werle
with support from Alex Masso and Haahuupayak School

ʔa ʔaa ca čee ča čee ha ha	(letters pronounced as syllables)
ʔi ʔii ka kee k ^w a k ^w ee la ʔa ʔa	...
ma ma na nee pa pee qa q ^w a	...
si šee ta tee ʔu ʔuu wa wa	...
xa xaa x ^w a x ^w ee yi yee ʔi ʔa	...
huhtakšišniš nuunučala.	We have learned to speak Nuuchahnulth.
ʔuuq ^w aaʔič nee namišiš ya,	Say, you all try too (vocable),
ʔa ʔaa ca čee ča čee wawaa.	saying ʔa ʔaa ca čee ča čee.

There is audio of Lena explaining this song.