ELA presents

Unheard Of!

Part V

GrayHawk Perkins & the Mezcal Jazz Unit

13 Moons

– the Mobilian Trade Language –
ELA & Unheard Of!

ELA is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting and promoting endangered languages of NYC and beyond.

Unheard Of! is a series highlighting poetry, music and performance in languages that are fighting to be heard.
GrayHawk Perkins & 13 Moons

5th installment presents 13 Moons a collaboration between GrayHawk Perkins and the Mezcal Jazz Unit.
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Special thanks to Elizabeth Riley for organizing the tour and making this event possible.
Languages of the Southeastern United States

The trade language area (roughly)
Muskogean family

- Eastern
  - Alabama
  - Koasati
  - Mikasuki
  - Muskogee

- Western
  - Chickasaw
  - Choctaw
Muskogean family

Eastern
- Alabama
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Mobilian Trade Language
Muskogean family

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Mobilian Trade Language

250  200  190  4,000  600  10,400

???
Illinois de Batz, 1735

“Indians of many nations bound for New Orleans”
From Choctaw to Mobilian

Choctaw:  
talowa’ am-alhkaniya-tok
song 1SG.DAT-forget-PAST
‘I forgot the song.’

Mobilian:  
talowa eno emehakse taha
song I forget PAST
‘I forgot the song.’
(Dreschel 1997)
An evolving grammar

Earlier Mobilian
Object-Verb, Noun-Adjective

binili himona asha
life new give
‘to give new life’

Mobilian today
Verb-Object, Adjective-Noun

asha himona binili
give new life
‘to give new life’
Source

13 Moons
by
GrayHawk Perkins

More about GrayHawk Perkins:
http://www.thegrayhawkband.com/

Buy the album:
http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/grayhawkperkinsmezcaljaz
Watermelon Moon
Watermelon moon
Through the creator we are re-born.
Watermelon moon.
We dance and we sing.
Fish Moon
Ilpa nani nashinenak
Ilap ok chakko tanchee
Pushno icla, pushno talawa
Pushno weki filé
Uha chukma
Ilap nani nashinenak
Uha him mina

It’s the Fish moon.
It’s the time of green corn.
We dance, we sing, we pound filé.
Everything is good.
It’s the Fish moon.
Everything is new.
Ilpa hay himona nashinenak
Ay chomibissa nashinenak
Uha hokchi ay isito

Uha tulko
Uha hoyo ay esse
Ilap ay chomibissa
Ay chomibissa nashinenak

It’s the new moon,
the Mulberry moon.
Everyone plants pumpkins.

Everyone tans hides.
Everyone hunts deer.
It’s the Mulberry,
the Mulberry moon.
Great Corn Moon
Ilap uha chukma
Wakame ishno nesken
Pisa uha ay chukma nana
Ay lekchee
Ay akaka chita
Ay hushi
Ay achito tanchee nashinenak
Soboli ay asoka
Pisa ay soboli
Anok fee lee
Ilap uha chukma

It’s all good
Open your eyes
See all the good things.
The cherry,
the turkey,
the Sun
The Great Corn moon.
Smoke the pipe.
Watch the smoke.
Reflect.
It’s all good.
Turkey Moon
Lechee ay lukfi
Lowa ilap lopulee pisa
Alla asha himona binili
Akaka chito nashinenak
Ay nitac pa ay illi taha
Pushno apa, pushno talawa
Hema ay kotini
Uha ay akni
Uha chukma

Clean the land and
burn it clear.
Give birth, new life.
Turkey moon.
The day of the Dead.
We eat,
we sing to the spirits of all
the elders.
All is good.
Bear Moon
Potoni ay lowak lowa
Potoni laspa
Binilli soboli ay asoka
Pushno anumpa ay chukma
Eno tanay chukma nana
Eno tanay akni anumpa
Ilap ay nita nashinenak
Binilli soboli ay asoka

Keep the fire burning.
Keep warm.
Sit down and smoke the pipe
We talk about the good.
I hear good things.
I hear the elders speak.
It’s the Bear moon.
Sit down and smoke the pipe.
Buffalo Moon
We all gather
Burn tobacco
Listen to the spirits speak.
Take it slow
We all gather
Carve wood
Make pots
Gather pecans
Listen to the spirits speak
It’s the Buffalo moon.
Cold Meal Moon
Yoko capassa notak
Olasi ay lowak
Eno lawa acena
Soboli ay asoka
Pisa ay soboli
Ishi yekopa
Bana imi weke
Yoko capassa mona nashinenak

This cold day,
near the fire
I burn cedar and
smoke the pipe
I watch the smoke,
get calm
and ask for balance
This is Cold Meal moon
Chestnut Moon
Pisa ay lowak lowa
Etco yako capassa opeya
Ola ay iti husupi pushno ayowa
Ay attak houma, ay attak lusa
Pushno soboli ay asoka mokla
Pushno talowa, pushno icta
Pushno kobafa paska
Kakolo ay shishi koshi
Kakolo ay akni talawa
Ilap at nashinenak
pa ay chestnut
Anonka Congo Square
Uha chukma

See the fire burn
on this cold night
We gather under the oak trees
the Indian and the Black Man.
We smoke the pipe with
friends.
We sing and we dance.
We break bread.
Listen to the drums!
Listen to the elders sing!
It’s the chestnut moon
at Congo Square
Walnut Moon
It’s the Walnut moon
We fish to gain balance
We accept the things the creator gives us.
We thank you for everything.
We listen to the wind and we watch the rain.
We see all the good.

Ilap ay osak nashinenak
Pushno banna imo weki
Pushno ishi ay nana
Abamico ima posno
Pushno yokoki
Pushno tahay ay mahali
Pushno pisa uha chukma
Deer Moon
Pushno hokchi oaspa
Eska ikhishi. Ima yokoki
Eco ay esse nashinenak
Ay, ay esse. Anok Filé
Uha pisa chukma
Elco ay esse nashinenak
Lowa ay acena
Ishi anonko weke
Uha pisa chukma
We plant the fields and
make medicine.
We give thanks
on the Deer moon.
We go to the river to reflect.
Everything is beautiful.
On the Deer moon,
burn the cedar.
Get in balance,
everything is beautiful.
Strawberry Moon
Bolibissa nashinenak
Yako mente ay bish koko
Pushno ayowa,
pushno hokchi
Hakchuma, acena, bolibissa
Uha chukma nana
Abamico yokoki
Pushno lichee ay chukka
Ishi ay chukma anonka
Uha chukma iksho
Uha chukma iksho taha

Strawberry moon
Here comes the robin.
We gather,
we plant
tobacco, cedar and strawberries.
All the good things.
Creator, we thank you.
We clean the house and
bring all the good inside and
all the bad goes out
all the bad went out.
Small Corn Moon
Lokfi tanchee osta
Eska paska
Ose tanchee nashinenak
Pushno mokofa apa
Ima paska aya mokla
Tanay aya ikhish talawa
anonka ay
Amba, mahali, heloa
Atcha, okata, bayuk
Ose tanchee nashinenak

Ground the corn
to make the bread.
Small corn moon.
We give food and
bread to friends.
Listen to the medicine songs.
In the
rain, wind, thunder, rivers,
lakes, bayous.
Small corn moon.