

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.

# GrayHawk Perkins & 13 Moons

5th installment presents **13 Moons** a collaboration between GrayHawk Perkins and the Mezcal Jazz Unit.

It is the first project to bring the **Mobilian Trade Language** back to life through music and song.

# GrayHawk Perkins & 13 Moons

5th installment presents **13 Moons** a collaboration between GrayHawk Perkins and the Mezcal Jazz Unit.

It is the first project to bring the **Mobilian Trade Language** back to life through music and song.

Special thanks to **Elizabeth Riley** for organizing the tour and making this event possible

# Languages of the Southeastern United States



Languages of the Southeastern United States

LINGUISTIC ISOLATES



Languages of the Southeastern United States

The trade language area (roughly)



# Muskogean family

Eastern

Western

Alabama

Koasati

Mikasuki

Muskogee

Chickasaw

Choctaw

# Muskogean family

Eastern

Western

Alabama

Koasati

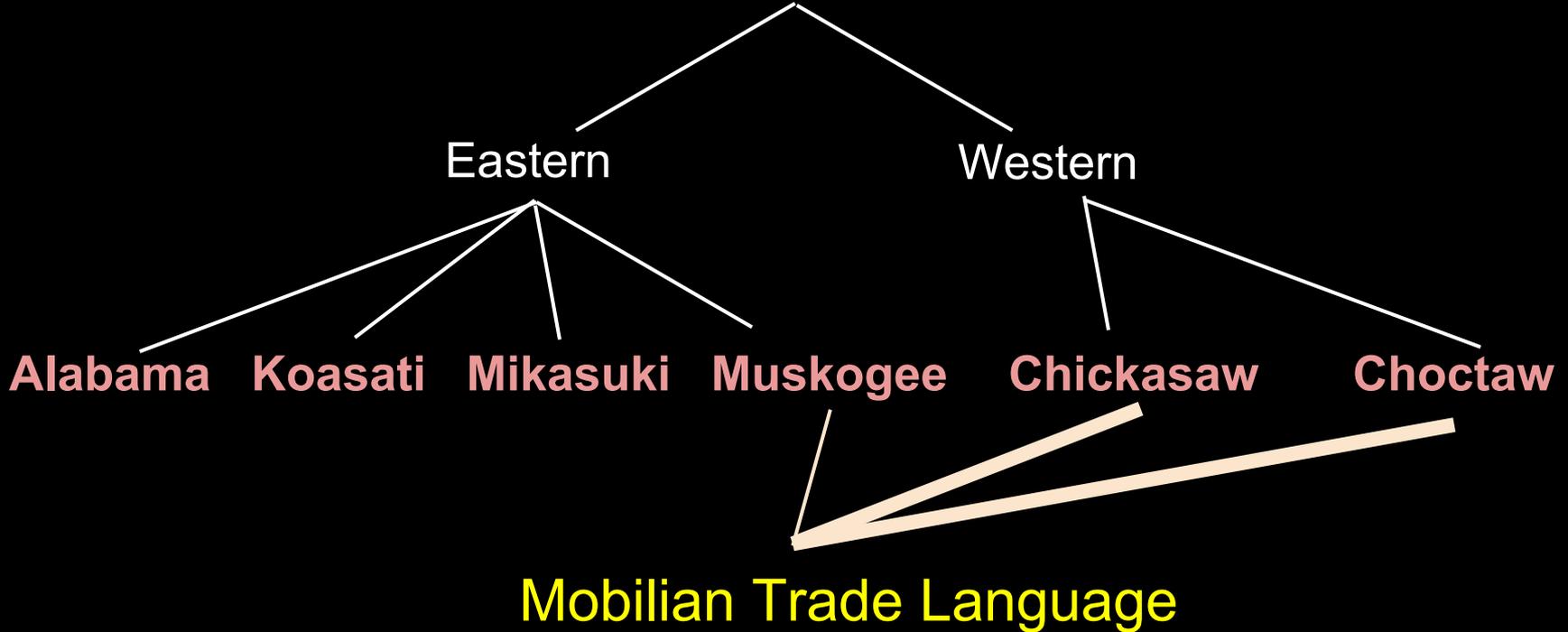
Mikasuki

Muskogee

Chickasaw

Choctaw

Mobilian Trade Language



# Muskogean family

Eastern

Western

Alabama

Koasati

Mikasuki

Muskogee

Chickasaw

Choctaw

250

200

190

4,000

600

10,400

Mobilian Trade Language

???

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

Drechsel, Emanuel. 1997. *Mobilian Jargon: Linguistic and Sociohistorical Aspects of a Native American Pidgin*. Oxford University Press.

# 13 Moons

by

GrayHawk Perkins

More about GrayHawk Perkins:

<http://www.thegrayhawkband.com/>

Buy the album:

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/grayhawkperkinsmezcaljaz>

# Watermelon Moon

Shukshi nashinenak

Abamico eska pushno himona

Shukshi nashinenak

Pushno icla, Pushno talawa

Shukshi nashinenak

**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.**

# Mulberry Moon

Ilpa hay himona nashinenak  
Ay chomibissa nashinenak  
Uha hokchi ay isito

**It's the new moon,  
the Mulberry moon.  
Everyone plants pumpkins.**

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

**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

Pusno uha ayowa  
Low haj chukma  
Hakolo ay kostini anumpa  
Ishi ilak palaki ikso  
Pushno uha ayowa  
Tok suli ay iti  
Eska ay shuti  
Ayowa ay osak fal  
Kakolo ay kostini anumpa  
Yanasa nashinenak

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

Olası 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  
Etko 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

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

**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.**

*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.**