

Land Acknowledgement given before Grumpytime Club Band Concert at Wendell Library, Wendell, MA , July 17, 2022. Written by Seal LaMadeleine

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge and express gratitude for the land on which we are performing.

We acknowledge that this land belongs to Native Nations and in particular we are on the unceded homelands of the Nipmuc nation, and near the homelands of the Pocumtuc and Wabanaki Confederacy.

We respect and recognize their land sustaining work and practices, from which we all benefit, for over thousands of years.

We encourage non-Indigenous folks to acknowledge and give back to Native Nations for both the knowledge and the land that supports us currently. Also, to support all cultures and artistry and traditions that make the world healthier and more whole and more aware.

Whether we are Indigenous or not Indigenous, we can all be part of lifting up native voices and culture. None of us are healthy and whole until all cultures are respected and whole.

In our effort to acknowledge and respect the immeasurable continued contribution of native communities, a donation from tonight's proceeds will be made to the network Indian Development organization in Grafton, Massachusetts. Their website is nippi.org.

Please help everyone in our state by contacting your state representatives in regards to five bills related to human rights that have been brought to the attention of our legislature by Indigenous activists.

The bills include proclaiming Indigenous People's day (replacing Columbus Day), protecting Indigenous artifacts, and supporting Indigenous youth. You can read more about the bills and how to get involved on the website massindigenouagenda.org .

Also, celebrate native culture and art and music at the Pocumtuc Homelands Festival on August 7th and 8th at Unity Park in Great Falls, MA.