



# Morning Concert: An Interview with Louis Ballard, September 1983

## Identifier

MC.1983.09.19.c1

## Object Type

Analog Audio

## Description

In an telephone interview recorded in September of 1983, host Russ Jennings talks with Louis Ballard, a Native American composer of Cherokee-Quapaw descent, whose work takes a great deal of its inspiration from the music and culture of his heritage. In this interview, he talks of the difficulties and rewards of being one of the first Native American composers of Western styled music. He describes how, in childhood he was exposed to both the ritual music of the traditional Indian powwows and the classical European music he learned as a piano student. Then later, as he became aware of the works of Dvor?ák and Bartok, he became interested in uniting Western European and Native American elements into a music that was uniquely his own. For Ballard, it was not enough to simply notate traditional folk melodies, or write for traditional instruments, but rather he sought to immerse himself in a folk tradition and then translate that spirit into a more classical format and ensemble. In this interview he describes that process while discussing in detail, several of his works (which unfortunately are not heard here). Mr. Ballard died on Feb. 9, 2007 at the age of 75.

## People

Jennings, Russ (features)

Ballard, Louis W. (features)

## Related Collection

OMA.COL003.KPFA

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