

Song Lyrics for  
**Am'lala sa K'umuxse'**  
*Play Song of the K'omoux*

Written by William Wasden Jr.

Halilay ha-a-a ha-la-a he-e-y  
halilay ha-a-a ha-a-a he-e-y  
halilay ha ha-ala he-e-e-y halilay  
ha ha-a he-y halilay ha ha-a he-y

Halilay ha-ya-as **i-la-a hi-i-i**  
iskum nisaika K'u-mu-x se-e-y  
halilay ha ha-ala he-e-e-y  
halilay ha ha-a he-y halilay  
ha ha-a he-y

*Our great land  
that we K'omoux have*

Halilay ha-ya-as **skoo-ku-m chuck**  
iskum nisaika K'u-mu-x se-e-y  
halilay ha ha-ala he-e-e-y  
halilay ha ha-a he-y halilay  
ha ha-a he-y

*Our powerful ocean and rivers  
that we K'omoux have*





Screen shot from February 1, 2019, live feed of performance at United Nations in New York.  
 Full article here: [www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/island-kwakwakawakw-dancers-perform-on-international-stage/](http://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/news/island-kwakwakawakw-dancers-perform-on-international-stage/).  
 Provided by Andy Everson with permission to use. From right to left – William Wasden Jr, Erik Baker, and Kaleb Child.

## William Wasden Jr. Bio

William Hīlmas Edward Wasden Jr. Waxawidi “Canoes Come to His Shore” was born at ‘Yalis (Alert Bay) British Columbia on October 14, 1967. William is a member of the ‘Namgis Nation “Nimpkish Valley Tribe”.

William carries many names and dances that have been bestowed on him by various sides of his families. William is also a descendant of the Cook, Wanukw, Hunt, Alfred, Harris and Innis families. He can also trace his ancestry to the Tlingit of Alaska and the Mowachaht of the West Coast.

William has taught most of his adult life in the majority of schools in the unceded Kwakwaka’wakw territories. He also ventures to share his knowledge of song composition with other nations along the coast.

William continues to teach all that he knows to the next generation of Kwakwaka’wakw. For many years, William has worked at the U’mista Cultural Center at Alert Bay BC as a researcher and cultural advisor. Recently, he has been rehired to return and continue work in language and history documentation for the Kwakwaka’wakw Nation.

## Song History

Am’lala sa K̓umux̓se’ was created in July 2018 for Indigenous Education (School District 71) to be sung by all students to celebrate Kwakwaka’wakw culture and language. Am’lala sa K̓umux̓se’ translates as ‘Play Song of the K’omoux’ and speaks to the great land “ila a hii” and the powerful ocean and rivers “skoo kum chuck” that are here within the lands of the K’omoux. The song was released into our School District in a ceremony held during a Professional Development Day on February 15, 2019.

## Use of Song Protocols

- Acknowledge the creator of the song (William Wasden Jr) from Alert Bay, British Columbia.
- Share the history of the song (see above description).
- The song must be respectfully used in the style/format it was released (no changes).

## Additional Resources

Visit our Indigenous Education webpage for additional resources including;

- YouTube video and MP3 version of song
- Song sheet with lyrics
- William Wasden Jr’s full biography
- Website links to other resources

[www3.sd71.bc.ca/School/abed/resources/teacher/Pages/default.aspx](http://www3.sd71.bc.ca/School/abed/resources/teacher/Pages/default.aspx)

