

## We Asked Martha...

### When did you start playing music?

I began singing at a very young age. At my kindergarten graduation, we sang the alphabet song in call and response style, and I was the lead singer! I was eight years old when I began piano lessons and 11 when I started to play guitar.

### What instruments do you play now?

My main instrument is my voice. I walk with it, speak with it; it's easy to carry but very delicate, so I am extra careful with how I use it. I also play hand and foot percussion, shakers and rattles and tambourine!

### What is your favorite thing about performing your style of music?

I love incorporating Native American traditional music into today's music, keeping our culture alive by mixing the past with the present.

### What inspires you?

My family and my ancestors inspire me. They went through some very challenging struggles throughout American history. Yet we are still here having survived the struggle, and now I can share their stories.



Harlan County, Kentucky