



Cherokee/Creek singer and song writer, Jorie West, began writing music at an early age and in 1995 wrote the song Come Closer, the Spanish flavored song that was birthed from a personal experience that changed her life.

Growing up in California which is heavily influenced by the Mexican culture, Jorie learned to love the language and the sounds of the Spanish guitar and is currently working on the song to re-record in Spanish.

In 1999 she began writing for their current album, Nvda Sunalei. "When I started writing songs about my family, the rich heritage and culture that means so much to me, the songs began to flow like never before." She focused mainly on the Cherokee language but added bits and pieces of Lakota and two Hawaiian songs that include yet another language that she has come to love.

She has been living in Hawaii for the past ten years and in addition to Sayani, she and her daughter Christie, sing with a popular Hawaiian group called Na Kahu.

Jorie is currently touring solo through the East Coast, Texas, and New Mexico and will meet Christie on the West Coast in October for a few Sayani concerts before returning to Hawaii in time for Thanksgiving with the family.

Sayani began recording in 2001 for their current album to honor their Cherokee/Creek family and the culture that they love more than any other. The album was released in 2003 and has enjoyed multiple nominations in both Hawaiian and Native American Music Awards.

Jorie and Christie West make up this mother/daughter duo whose music is filled with rich, beautiful harmonies. They have worked as studio and backup vocalist for many years and began singing together as *Sayani* in 2003 to share their own music..... from their hearts.



Nvda Sunalei (Morning Sun) is a cultural adventure in sounds and styles that blend together for a truly unique musical experience that will speak to the heart, lift the spirit and soothe the soul.

Most songs, written by Jorie West, a Cherokee/Creek singer-song writer, are Native American but she has included two Hawaiian songs about the culture and the people of the land where they make their home.

Their name, *Sayani*, is a Tsalagi (Cherokee) word meaning Zion and is pronounced Sah YAH nee. Most of the songs are performed in English but are peppered here and there with Tsalagi, Lakota and the Hawaiian language.

Acclaimed musician David Kahiapo plays guitar throughout the album and has added a familiar Hawaiian flavor to some of their music to create a unique, Native blend.

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