

About the Harmony Collaboration's production FIRST and the song "Muskrat":

In collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Harmony Collaboration ([www.theharmonycollaboration.com](http://www.theharmonycollaboration.com)) has created a powerful new multi-media music theatre production entitled **FIRST**. Generous financial support was provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

**FIRST** explores elements of the Mississaugas creation story as portrayed in the magnificent *Kiinwi Dabaadjmowin (Our Story) Mural*, a visual depiction of the Mississaugas history from the First Fire of Creation to modern times. The mural was created in 2002 by artists **Philip Cote** and **Tracey Anthony** assisted by **Rebecca Baird** and students **Eric LaForme**, **Rachele King**, and **Jocelyn Hill**.

**FIRST** is presented in two acts, and set with a dramatic video backdrop incorporating stunning imagery from the mural and the natural world. The original score and libretto is sung and spoken by vocalists accompanied by piano, and includes contemporary indigenous dance and drums by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Dancers.

The story begins with Creator giving life to all living things of this world. After the passage of time, humanity descends into chaos. Creator decides to cleanse the world with a great flood. Water covers the Earth.

The song "Muskrat" occurs after the Flood. A small group of animals and First Man survive the Flood by clinging to a log that floats on the surface of the water that covers the earth. The Chorus sings a lament for all that has been lost. Each of the surviving animals dive, one at a time, in search of earth to build a new world. They all fail.

Muskrat, the smallest of all of the surviving animals, dives last. Muskrat sacrifices its life to successfully bring earth to the surface and start a new world on the back of Turtle, creating a new home for all living things.