Buffy Sainte-Marie (Cree) is a Canadian-American singer-songwriter, musician, composer, visual artist, educator, pacifist, and social activist. Her career as an Academy Award-winning singer-songwriter has spanned genres, continents, and generations. She emerged onto the music stage in the 1960s during the folk music era, but even then was writing songs that would become international classics in the worlds of country, rock, rap, jazz, and pop. Chet Atkins, Janis Joplin, Elvis Presley, Neko Case, Glenn Campbell, Courtney Love, Barbra Streisand, Joe Cocker, and Cam’ron—all have covered her songs, as have hundreds of other artists in 11 different languages. This kind of diversity has brought both adoration and criticism. In a world where most people stick to only one category, fans who came to hear folk or country have been surprised to hear her huge hits from other charts. The music of Buffy Sainte-Marie has withstood the tests of both time and technology as songs, samples, covers, and movie scores continue to be discovered by new fans, building upon her expanding song book year after year.

Her latest CD, "Running for the Drum," won a Juno Award (Canadian Grammy) in 2009 and in September of the same year she was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. Sainte-Marie is also recipient of two Aboriginal People’s Choice Music Awards—including one for Lifetime Achievement—and six honorary doctorates in art, letters, music, and law from various Canadian institutions.

The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community at Arizona State University brings notable scholars and speakers to Arizona for public lectures twice per year. These speakers address topics and issues across disciplines in the arts, humanities, sciences, and politics. Underlying Indigenous American experiences and perspectives, this series seeks to create and celebrate knowledge that evolves from an inclusive Indigenous worldview and that is applicable to all walks of life.

This event is free of charge and open to the public.