

Aleut musician records his first album

by Holly F. Reimer
Tundra Times reporter

Many of us can only dream about having our own studio to record our own songs and music. Joseph Lind had such a dream, but now the 27-year-old Aleut can call himself a recording artist.

He has been working on his first demo album of pop songs during the past year, producing his own tapes at his own studio using his own songs and music.

The tape is titled "Alaskan Life," which is also the title of one of the tracks on the tape. And this song is about, of course, life in Alaska.

Lind was born at Chignik Lake and just recently finished recording his first two demo tapes which were given to two radio stations, one in Bethel and one in Dillingham.

Lind said it's difficult to get music played on Anchorage radio stations because you have to know the right people. Unfortunately, he doesn't know them.

Before this tape, Lind had another one that featured only two of his songs. They were also played on the Bethel and Dillingham stations.

He said using somebody else's recording studio can become quite expensive. That's why his other tape only consisted of two songs.

Lind said buying all the needed equipment was very costly but worth it in the end. He used all his money from the previous summers fishing to buy recording equipment and miscellaneous necessities to produce his music.

Lind isn't starry-eyed about becoming rich and famous overnight, he's just doing what he likes to do — being a musician.

Lind isn't starry-eyed about becoming rich and famous overnight, he's just doing what he likes to do — being a musician.

"I've spent a long time on this tape so I'm just taking it day by day," he said.

Lind knows that the only way to sell his album is by presenting it to the public and having his songs heard. But to promote his album the way he would like will cost him more money than he can afford right now, so he's looking forward to fishing money again this summer. He may also look into getting some type of sponsorship to help him with marketing.

Lind has been writing songs almost as long as he has played the guitar. He started writing songs 11 years ago and has been playing the guitar for 17 years.

While he was a member of a three-man band traveling around the state he would pay close attention to which of his songs people liked the most that the band played. And these are the songs which were chosen for the album.

The album is a mixture of pop type music that you can dance to and also love songs. The tape is now on sale at Robber Joe's Records and Tapes music store in Anchorage.

Lind is a guitar player and vocalist, and he used a computer to assist with other instrumental compositions for his album.

But first, he said, he had to learn how to operate a computer. This took time and patience.

The mixing part of the recording process which consists of first recording all the parts of the song separately, such as lead vocals, back up vocals, drums, and then mixing them together at the exact time and re-recording them together also turned out to be a learning experience for Lind.

"On one song, I had to mix it five times to get the song I wanted," he said.

"The worst part was the monotony."

'The worst part was the monotony. I was on the edge of burning out on these songs.'

I was on the edge of burning out on these songs," he said.

But he said his friends and family gave him encouragement to keep going.

"Sometimes I'd play a song for somebody to see what they thought and they'd really enjoy it, while I couldn't wait for it to get over with," Lind said.

Even though Lind had run into difficulties learning how to record and mix he has still beat his personal goal for finishing the album.

Lind set his deadline for March 18. He said he beat that by 20 days.

Lind first learned how to play on one of his older brother's guitars.

"I'd sneak up to his room while he was out fishing. I'd keep peaking out the window to make sure he wasn't coming," Lind said.

Eventually this led to Lind and his six brothers and two sisters putting on little skits for each other. Then when he was in the 10th grade he and his first band got to play for their school during lunch once.

When he was first learning how to play Lind said that's practically all he did. His guitarist idol is Eddie Van Halen.

'On one song, I had to mix it five times to get the song I wanted.'

"I'd play from morning till noon. And I spent a lot of time alone, just playing," he said.

In the future Lind said he'd like to try a new sound. Although he knows it won't be rap music, he said he'd like to try a "fishermen's rap" song just for fun.



Photo by Chris Cushman

Joseph Lind's first album, which he recorded himself, is entitled "Alaskan Life."