

As a passionate singer, songwriter and soulful performer, Leela Gilday has a voice that comes straight from the heart of the North. Her emotionally charged voice weaves within it stories connected to the land and voices of the people that created her. Leela was born and raised in the Northwest Territories. Her family is from the Dene Nation, on the shore of Great Bear Lake.

Leela earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alberta in 1997, and in 2003, she was named in Maclean's magazine's Top 50 under 30 to recognize her advocacy and utilizing her platform for the North. In February of 2020, she was one of the inaugural recipients of the SOCAN Her Music award, a national prize recognizing outstanding achievement among female and female presenting musicians.

She also won the Canadian Folk Music Award for Indigenous Songwriter of the Year at the 16th annual Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2021, for North Star Calling. She has released five solo albums since 2002, two of which have won the Juno Award for Indigenous music Album of the Year. Leela Gilday, recognized within the Speak Up exhibition.