

WAIATA

Music

WAIATA *Music*

There is music in nature. Think of bird song or the sound of wind whistling through a valley, even the constant noise of cicadas at the height of summer or waves crashing on a beach.



THEN THERE IS MUSIC MADE BY HUMANS BY VOICE OR INSTRUMENT.

The whakapapa of the atua is shared in ancient waiata. The stories of how species came to be is found in waiata.

Spoken oriori can be about a range of subjects but are often used to pass on information about history or nature. Stories like the meaning of Whakaoriori show us how useful information was passed from grandparents to grandchildren about the atua while being surrounded by the atua.

Some forms of waiata tell stories about the deeds and feats of famous ancestors who are likened to mighty trees and other symbols of strength.

Taonga puoro, traditional Instruments are mokopuna of the atua and have a whakapapa or family of their own.

The word for tune is Rangi. Melodic instruments such as flutes and trumpets were part of his family. Rhythmic instruments such as anything struck belonged to Papatūānuku. These could be stone, bone or wood. Poi and spinning disks also belonged to Papatūānuku. Shell instruments like putatara came under Tangaroa.

INSTRUMENTS

KŌAUAU (FLUTE)



PŪKĀEA (TRUMPET)



PUTATARA (CONCH SHELL)



NGURU (NOSE FLUTE)



PUREREHUA (BULLROARER)

Purerehua (bullroarer) is an oblong disk with a cord. A user holds the end of the cord and starts to spin this until the disk twirls above their head. The noise a purerehua makes sound like the fluttering of a moths wings which is why they both have the name purerehua.

Purerehua can be made from many materials but was traditionally carved from bone, wood and stone.

They were used to call up rain, wind, thunder and to communicate.



Te Papa



AN ANCIENT WAIATA OF RANGITĀNE INSPIRED BY NATURE

From Rangitāne A Tribal History by J.M. McEwen

THE HUIA

This bird, the huia, was the pet of Tautu who placed it on Tararua. This is the song about the style of conversation of this pet.

Let the ears listen

Taringa whakarongo . . . o

To the whispering

Ki te kohimuhinu . . . u

Of the pet of Tautu

Te mo . . . okai a Tautu . . . u

Welcome! Come

Nau mai haere . . . e

To the flat roofed house

Ki te whare pora . . . a

Of Hungahunga

I a Hunghunga . . . a

To make possible

Kia mana ai . . . i

Your flight

Tou rerenga . . . a

Screeching

E tioro nei . . . i



TE TAPERE NUI O WHATONGA – A NATURAL ORCHESTRA

Te Tapere Nui o Whatonga or the Seventy Mile Bush had so many birds that people found the dawn chorus deafening.

“The forest was a flutter with bellbirds, tuis, huias, parakeets, bush robins, fantails, tom tits, kakas, saddlebacks, moreporks and the richly coloured native pigeons.”

“Each morning the call of the tui, just before daybreak, was the sign for the dawn chorus of bird song to greet the rising sun.”

McCallum A, 1985 p6

WAIATA-A-RINGA AND THE WIRI MOVEMENT

The words sung in Waiata-a-ringa or action songs are supported by body movements. Fluttering hand movements are called wiri. Wiri can symbolise heat waves like those seen just above the ground on a hot day, shimmering water or leaves on a tree moving in the breeze.

MOUNTAIN STREAM MUSIC

Have you ever sat by a mountain stream and watched the water cascade over rocks. The water dances as it twists and turns, shimmering with light reflected from above and below. It talks to you in a bubbly wishy washy way. What else can you hear when you sit by a stream?

WHY NOT MAKE
MUSIC FROM
SOUNDS IN NATURE
OR FROM NATURAL
MATERIALS?

NEW ZEALAND’S LONGEST PLACE-NAME 1

Full name	<i>Te Taumata-whakatangitangihanga-te-koauau-a-Tanenuiarangi</i>
Meaning	the look-out where the flute of Tanenuiarangi was made to sound
Common Name	New Zealand’s longest place-name
Location	Porangahau central Hawkes Bay

Explanation

Rangitaane who was also known as Tanenuiarangi was travelling through the Porangahau district when he sat down on a high hill to rest. While sitting down he thought of his home in Here-taunga (Hawkes Bay) and so took out his flute and started to play a tune.

Another version of this story relates how Rangitaane listened to the noise the wind made as it came through the hills rather than actually playing a flute.

NEW ZEALAND'S LONGEST PLACE-NAME 2

Full name *Tetaumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu*
 (Te taumata whatatangihanga koauau o tamatea uraehae turipukaka pik-
 imaunga horonuku pokaiwhenua ki tanatahu)

Meaning The hilltop where Tamatea, with big knees, conqueror of mountains, eater of land, traveller over land and sea, played his koauau (flute) to his beloved.

Common Name New Zealand's longest place-name

Location Porangahau central Hawkes Bay



Explanation

Tamatea Pokai whenua Pokai moana would sit on this famous hill and play a lament on his flute (koauau) as he thought about his brother who had been killed in battle.

