

# WAI.TAI

“HOEA”

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# MIHI / ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.**

It is from the efforts of many that we are able to achieve our goals.

We acknowledge the contributions of those who have given their support and creativity to this offering. The philosophical backdrop of the music of WAI.TAI is in part from the old manuscript writings of the Tai Tokerau Wananga and beyond. That is, the writings of the old knowledge-holders that span over 100 years.

In addition, Hirini Melbourne was a teacher of traditional worldviews that he put to song and shared for the people of Aotearoa. He is the inspiration that asks WAI.TAI to tread carefully upon the same pathway.

We also acknowledge the genealogical threads that run through our veins – the swirling currents that hear music everywhere - in the chirping of a tatarakihi – the cicada; within the heartbeat of Papatuanuku – the Earth Mother; and in the comforting sound of a late night guitar party to which a child gently falls asleep.

This EP was made possible by musicians Robyn Kamira, Te Auripo Kamira, Krissy Jackson, Nigel Gavin, Yair Katz and Micheal Young's Studio 27A. Leonie Matoe joined us as special spoken word guest in Hoesa.

Behind the scenes Tanetiki Morgan who from childhood sung the parts with us and still does, Antony Royal who ensures that the sound support is exactly where it should be and who provides critique and industrious support in many ways, Chris Priestley who stood us in front of our very first microphone at One2one, Ponsonby, Auckland in 2012 - the beginning of a journey to performance, Roger Giles at The Bunker who encourages and provides the whisky and hugs, the other performers who grace our stages in the "live" shows - and the families and partners who listen with no agendas, bring their ponderings, and never fail to keep the fires burning.

To all the audiences who provide the beautifully respectful listening and who allow the sharing to occur, and who afterwards approach to wrap their words around us like hugs.

No reira, anei ra te mihi aroha kia koutou katoa e tuku ake nei i runga i nga ahuatanga. E tau ana te wa 'hakataa ake nei, ano tohaina ra te mihi maioha.

# KORERO MO WAI.TAI / ABOUT WAI.TAI

Waitai means ocean water. Oceans and waterways connect us all to us all. It is our global relationship and is reflected the music of WAI.TAI as universal and connected.

At its core, WAI.TAI combines Maori rhythms and harmonies with World music creating a unique fusion that allows each piece to bring what may seem like disparate worldviews but as the music demonstrates there are universal themes.

The WAI.TAI membership is fluid allowing the line ups for each concert to be selected for the occasion, and allowing for the combination of musicians, instruments and approaches to be customised for each concert.

# NGA KAIWHAKATANGITANGI / THE MUSICIANS

## **ROBYN KAMIRA (TE RARAWA)**

Musical director of WAI.TAI, Robyn Kamira writes and arranges the music, and selects the line up from a “cast” of musicians, based on their vocal and instrumental affinity with the music and for the occasion. Robyn was taught by Hirini Melbourne, a well-respected Maori academic and musician who was instrumental in restoring the knowledge relating to taonga puoro (traditional Maori instruments). She seeks to contribute to his aspiration to share traditional knowledge through music. Her Te Rarawa tribal links are a characteristic of the dialect and content of her music, and she fuses this with a range of World music styles.

## **TE AURIPO KAMIRA (TE RARAWA)**

Te Auripo Kamira was one of the founding vocalists in WAI.TAI when it began in 2013. Her exquisite voice and harmonies characterise the 'sound' that has become WAI.TAI's point of difference. A student of Te Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa (Maori immersion pre-school and primary school) she grew up with te reo (the Maori language) as a natural part of her life. She has an inherent understanding of the distinctive “Maori” harmonic layers in the vocals and delivers these effortlessly.

## **KRISSY JACKSON (TE RARAWA)**

Since she could walk, Krissy Jackson has been playing the fiddle. Her mantra of “have fiddle - will travel” has landed her in many a musical situation, playing a variety of styles with many people. Performing regularly with Hot Diggity and the Frank Burkitt Band, Krissy is well known for her bluegrass style. However, Krissy's WAI.TAI contribution is an almost ethereal style that weaves its way insightfully through the set. Krissy enjoys acknowledging her Ihutai, Te Rarawa tribal connections through music and fuses this with her Celtic background. More recently, she has also played fusion Indian music with Sargum Fusion.

## **NIGEL GAVIN (NEW YORK)**

Nigel Gavin brings his lightning fast fingers to the WAI.TAI lineup. His intuitive style and string effects add playfully to the complex layers of meaning within each WAI.TAI song. “He is one of New Zealand’s musical treasures. The eccentric range of his musical projects is matched only by his astonishing virtuosity with stringed instruments and his prodigious musical imagination. Guitarists will be astonished by the technique on display. Nigel’s finger-picking is so fast, so smooth, and so laden with sudden virtuoso explosions that it is damn near impossible to work out either what he’s doing, or how he’s doing it” - Tauranga Weekend Sun.

## **YAIR KATZ (ISRAEL)**

Originally from Israel, Yair Katz has lived in New Zealand since 2004 and is a registered music therapist. As a drummer-percussionist, Yair brings his listening ears and unique style combining free improvisation, jazz, Middle-Eastern and African influences to WAI.TAI. His musical collaborations include recording and

performing in NZ and overseas with numerous artists with a wide range of musical styles. Yair has performed at most of NZ's international arts and music festivals, including several performances at WOMAD in Taranaki for The Mamaku Project, Besser and Bravura, and Whirimako Black. Yair is also vocalist-drummer in West-Auckland's power trio MidweekTonic.

# LYRICS + MEANINGS

**Title: Hoes**

**Album title: Hoes**

**Songwriter: Robyn Kamira**

**Date written: 2002**

**Track number: 1**

Hoes is the act of paddling a waka (canoe). The song speaks of courage and determination in the face of danger, uncertainty and fear. The journey must be taken. How will we take it? The first part of the song echoes back to “Grammah Easter’s Lullaby” sung by Ulali, written by Pura Fé (Album: Tribal Voices).

When our ancestors left Hawaiki on their ocean-going canoes some of them would have perhaps felt apprehensive. Yet, they struck out into Te Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa (the great ocean of Kiwa, the Pacific Ocean).

The bridge beginning “Ko Ngatokimatawhaorua...” can be replaced by the singer’s own waka and tangata (navigator). Please respect the intellectual, cultural and indigenous property rights by acknowledging the sources and keeping this information and context of this song with the lyrics.

This version on the HOEA EP also includes spoken word artist Leonie Matoe reciting an adapted version of Cilla Ruha’s poem “In Rise and Fall” published in Te Herenga Reo, Indigenous Storytellers, Matariki 2015, Aotearoa, Te Herenga Reo Press.

**Intro** [guitar riff]

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes, hoes ra

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes ra te waka

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes, hoes ra

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes ra te waka

Kahore ahau, e matakū – e  
Kahore e matakū

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes, hoes ra

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes ra te waka

**INSTRUMENTAL** [verse progression + 2 bars]

Ko Ngatokimatawhaorua te waka, Hoes ra, hoes ra **[echo]**

Nukutawhiti te tangata o runga, Hoes ra, hoes ra **[echo]**

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes, hoes ra

Hoes, hoes, hoes ra - Hoes ra te waka

**Title: He Aha Ra Te Manu?**

Album title: Hoesa

Songwriter: Robyn Kamira

Date written: 2012

Track number: 2

This waiata, in an older style of Te Reo, is based on an ancient love charm (ātaahu). The reciter means to gain the romantic affections of a loved one. Should the reciter have sufficient *mana* (personal prestige and psychic force) the recipient's heart would fill with love, and he or she would become the "*manu-tupu-tangata*". The forest birds are sent as messengers to activate the charm. In this version, you won't have to sacrifice a bird to make it work! Rough translation: What is this bird? Tis the wood-robin. What is this bird? Tis the wandering bird. They are hopping about and twittering. They will bring forth the one I love. My love, come hither to the lovers' embrace!

**Intro 4 bars**

He aha ra te manu?

[He pitori te manu]

He pitori te manu

[He aha ra te manu?]

He aha ra te manu?

[He karewa te manu]

He karewa te manu

[He aha ra te manu?]

[repeat verse]

**I whano ki reira pekī ai e**

**I whano ki reira tūtū ai e**

**I whano ki reira waiari e**

E-i-e (x2 first time only)

**[lead break, verse progression] ...**

**[then verse] ... [then chorus]**

Te manu atu tupu ra, tangata

Tahu e, Nau mai

Kia piri, Kia tata e (x2)

... i-e!

**Title: Earth & Sky**

Album title: Hoes

Songwriter: Robyn Kamira

Date written: 2012

Track number: 3

The greatest love story of all is that of Ranginui (sky father) and Papatūānuku (earth mother). In the Maori creation story, Papatūānuku and Ranginui cling together in the lovers' embrace and their children live between them in darkness. Papatūānuku senses their impending separation as one of their sons forces them apart, thus breaking the embrace and enabling the emergence of light (enlightenment) between them. The only place the lovers meet now is an illusion - the horizon - where the sky appears to touch the earth.

CAPO ON 3<sup>rd</sup> FRET

**INTRO**

Ko Ranginui ki runga [G D Em C]

Papatūānuku ki raro

Tai-horo-nuku-rangi ki waho

Ka puta mai, te ao marama

**VERSE 1 [G Am C D]**

Here we both are in this wondrous place

Earth below, and above, a hanging sky

**[Em D C]**

Exploding green and blue

Yet, I wait in the shadows for you

**CHORUS [G D Em C]**

And I need to close my eyes

Even though you're far away

I'm mesmerised, by your shining light

Tho I know it can't be held

I'm captivated (now)

**VERSE 2 [G Am C D]**

You and I, we are the Earth & Sky

And the past is just a distant cry

**[Em D C]**

The horizon where we meet

My forever view of you

**CHORUS (x2) ... OUTRO (x2)**

**Title: Putiputi**

Album title: Hoea

Songwriter: Robyn Kamira

Date written: 2015

Track number: 4

Putiputi, the flower, is a term of endearment for females. When our daughters become young women we may struggle to let them go. This waiata is for parents who have had to let their daughters go, to eventually find the significant others who will come into their lives.

Beautiful blossoming flower you are like the kowhai in bloom. Beautiful sprouting flower, you open in the morning and close at night. Who will one day desire you? Who will be the flower's sweetheart?

(CAPO on 7<sup>th</sup>) Am E7 Dm

**INTRO** [2 progressions]

Putiputi ata-ahua to puawaitanga  
'Hakaritea koe ki puanga o kowhai e ...

Putiputi ata-ahua to rāpupuku e  
Manahua i te awatea, kati i te po ...

**CHORUS**

Ma wai koe e hiahia, (te) āritarita e?  
Ko wai ia hei whaiaipo mo te putiputi e ...

**INSTRUMENTAL****REPEAT ALL**

**OUTRO** [2 progressions]



**Title: Tihore Chant**

Album title: Hoesa

Songwriter: Robyn Kamira

Date written: 2015

Track number: 5

Traditional karakia (with adjustments) sung as a chant - arranged by Robyn Kamira. This chant is based loosely on an ancient invocation (karakia) to stop the rain. Robyn's chant version of the original karakia "calls in" Hirini Melbourne's popular waiata "Tihore", based on the same karakia, to set the scene. The karakia commands the rain to stop and the sun to appear. Fly Kingfisher onto the clump of astelia and spread your wings as shelter. Ruffle the raindrops from your wings lest you catch a chill. Escape Earthworm, out of your burrow lest you drown. Let the sun shine!

E rere, e rere, e te kotare e

Ki runga puwharawhara – e - i

Ruru ai o parirau – e - i

Ka mate koe i te ua – e - i

Tihore mai i uta

Tihore mai i tai

He rangi, ka mao te ua – e - i