

# He Waiata Whakataukī

Hei ngohe korikori, kōrero, tākarokaro hoki Whakataukī  
as waiata with movement, speech, and play activities

**A new Poutokomanawa resource, created with the support of MENZA Networks of Expertise funding, was successfully launched at the 2023 MENZA conference 'He Hononga: Connecting Within and Across'.** *'He Waiata Whakataukī'*

presents five beautiful waiata based on whakataukī by singer songwriter Sean O'Connor (Ngāti Porou). Working in collaboration with illustrator Emily Cater and designer Maree Wilson, we have curated this collection of waiata, which includes newly created musical and movement activities that support relational and embodied music learning for primary classrooms here in Aotearoa.

Embedded in whakataukī are ancestral messages reflecting shared values and philosophies, many of which have been passed down over generations. The resource aims to support learning te reo Māori in a way that explores the energies, wairua and mauri of a language practice that is steeped in the use of word play, metaphor, symbolism, and allegory. Whakataukī, as used in whaikōrero, invites improvisation and creative application<sup>1</sup>. Whakataukī are open-ended and when used in whaikōrero can enable insight in an audience and embellish an expressive response in a moment. The speaker can select whakataukī to support word play, rhetorical questions, and improvised melodies to help express the mauri or wairua of a moment. Whakataukī utilise metaphors, word play, and musical language and embellishments to weave people into relationships with each other, the space they are in, and new ideas and ways of thinking.

Whakataukī are "gifts of mana left to us by our tūpuna to share with present and future generations"<sup>2</sup>.

The material shared in *'He Waiata Whakataukī'* invites us to sit with each whakataukī for a time, to give them attention through play, creative process, movement, and shared singing. In this way we begin to build our own unique relationship with the whakataukī and are given a range of ways to attend to the energy of the ancestral messages embedded in the words. This includes through embodied experiences and the various senses involved in shared music making. By connecting whakataukī with creative learning processes and musical play, we hope to support tamariki to engage joyfully with whakataukī.

Throughout this resource you will find musical material which aims to engage kaiako and tamariki in creative exploration, varied repetition, active listening, and playful musical engagement. In these ways the material provides time and space to notice and feel the rhythms of te reo Māori, the melodies and expressive elements of the waiata, and the various meanings within the different whakataukī,

as they emerge within your own classroom or community of learning. Learning sequences provided in the resource foreground relational and embodied teaching strategies and learning processes. In creating this resource we have aspired to celebrate, and help make tangible, physical, spiritual, and emotional ways of coming to know about the world and our place in it. Relational themes of love, presence, diversity, energy, balance, perception, deep attention, ecology, community, and ensemble consciousness can all be found within the waiata whakataukī material shared in this resource. To further support open-ended korero around these themes, each waiata has a 'he wānanga' section offered, which shares some background for each of the whakataukī waiata used in the resource.

The resource aims to support kaiako to reflect on a range of musical (and broader arts-based learning) behaviours, musical literacies, and elements of music and dance, which tamariki are enabled to engage with in the activities throughout this resource. The resource invites kaiako to reflect on the different ways the material, activities, different learning behaviours, and teaching strategies support relational and embodied learning in their own classroom context. With a section on teaching strategies and learning designs the resource also supports kaiako to familiarise and Orff-inspired teaching sequences including call and response (tautitotito), embodying the beat (whakatinana i te manawataki), exploring phrasing (rerenga puoro), music mapping/graphic notation (mahere puoro), and rhythmic speech play (tākaro ā-kupu), ostinati (he rerenga tāruarua) and body percussion (papaki ā-tinana). Throughout the resource we have woven Māori kupu connected to the relational and embodied teaching strategies that are shared, with the support of Makaira Waugh. There is also an illustrated glossary page of these terms that can be printed as a poster to be used in the classroom. We hope this also supports kaiako to extend and normalise the use of te reo Māori as part of their music and movement teaching, here in Aotearoa.

The whole resource, along with online support audio files and videos for waiata learning, can now be downloaded for free in the resource section of the MENZA website.

**Kia manahau! nā Priya and Sean.**

<sup>1</sup> Rewi, P. (2010). *Whaikōrero: The world of Māori oratory*. Auckland University Press.

<sup>2</sup> Poipoia Ngā Tamariki: [https://www.tutamawahine.org.nz/poipoia\\_nga\\_tamariki\\_1](https://www.tutamawahine.org.nz/poipoia_nga_tamariki_1)

**BIO:** Priya Gain Writer and Co-Creator of 'He Waiata Whakatauki'. Priya Gain is a co-founder of Poutokomanawa and has led a number of Networks of Expertise projects for MENZA, including bicultural arts based educational resources for primary schools and numerous decolonising music education initiatives. She is a fully qualified Orff music educator (level 4) and has led professional development through ONZA (Orff NZ) in the Wellington region for many years. She currently works in the School of Education, at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, teaching music, dance, and drama education as well as professional practice. She is currently completing doctoral research, through Te Puna Wānanga at the University of Auckland, on relational engagement between mainstream arts based education and ngā toi Māori. This research includes ongoing engagement with taonga puoro marae wānanga in the Far North region of Aotearoa, NZ.



PRIYA GAIN

**BIO:** Sean O'Connor (Ngāti Porou) - Songwriter, Composer and Co-Creator of 'He Waiata Whakatauki' Sean is a singer/songwriter, recording artist, performer, and primary school music specialist. He is passionate about creating bilingual, English and te reo Māori, musical material to celebrate Aotearoa and its indigenous Māori heritage. Sean has led numerous projects in schools and in the community with his waiata whakatauki, including partnering with both MENZA and ONZA (Orff NZ Aotearoa).



SEAN O'CONNOR

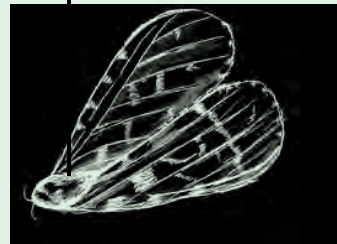
**POUTOKO-MANAWA FOR MENZA RESOURCES**

**Poutokomanawa is a bicultural arts education collective, which was established in 2020 by Priya Gain and Makaira Waugh, along with support from their colleague Rawiri Hindle.** The aim of this collective has been to create genuine spaces in bicultural arts education projects that give time and opportunities for rich, thoughtful, and critically reflective bicultural collaboration. As a collective we advocate for learning that is grounded in ngā toi, creativity, artistry, wellbeing, child-led exploration and play, the natural environment, and local place-based curriculum that engages with the place we call home here in Aotearoa, in Te Moananui a Kiwa, the Pacific.

The learning processes offered in this resource build on those used in our previous two Poutokomanawa resources: 'Chase Across the Waves/Aruru ki Tawhiti' and 'Te Koha a Tāne'. Within these resources you will find more embodied musical speech, songs, dance activities, and rhythmic play material interwoven with storytelling. The waiata whakatauki presented here are all connected thematically with both of these resources and have been designed to be complementary, particularly around themes of aroha and whanaungatanga; community and ecology.

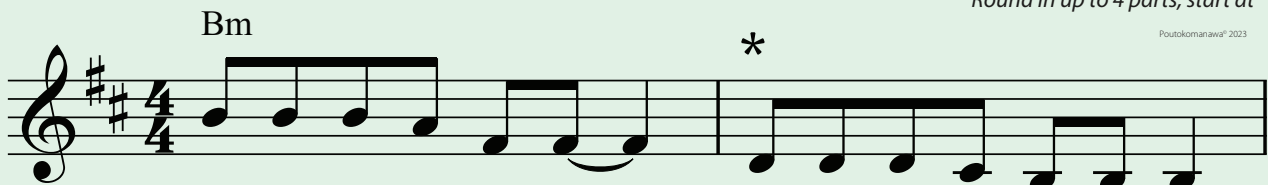
# Tuia

Kaitito: Sean O'Connor



Round in up to 4 parts, start at \*

Poutokomanawa 2023



Tu - i - a i ru - nga, tu - i - a i ra - ro,  
Bind it a - bove, bind it be - low,



tu - i - a te he - re - nga ta - nga - ta.  
bind it in the middle where the peo - ple go

Online support for all 'Poutokomanawa for MENZA' resources can be found in the Puawaiata section of the MENZA website under 'Ngā Rauemi - Resources'. This includes audio files for all the waiata included in the resource. The waiata are also available on Spotify under 'He Waiata Whakatauki'.

