

## Waiata aroha

Waiata aroha is a song that expresses love and/or affection for a person or kaupapa/event. The waiata may pay tribute to a person, or kaupapa/event at the time of the composition and/or the past. With its lyrics easily identifiable as a waiata tangi or song of lament, the hand and body actions confirm it as a waiata aroha.

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- ④ Tuini Ngāwai (Te Whānau a Ruataupare, Tokomaru Bay) wrote several waiata including *E Te Hokowhitu a Tū* where it was first performed at the memorial hui for Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Ngārimu at Whakarua Park in Ruatōrea, October 1943. To the tune of Glenn Miller's 1940s song *In The Mood*, this waiata was initially written to recruit and encourage the 28<sup>th</sup> New Zealand (Māori) Battalion. However, before the first performance, Ngāwai inserted the words of tribute to Ngārimu. While the lyrics and theme of the waiata differ to the lyrics and theme of *In The Mood*, its melody is easily recognisable and one that incites a sense of whakangahau when it is performed.
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Over time, some of the lyrics have changed while the actions generally remain the same.

- ④ Along with other waiata written by Ngāwai, this waiata is an anthem for the people of Te Whānau a Ruataupare and Ngāti Porou and can also be categorised as a waiata tangi and whakangahau.

There is a sense of kotahitanga and aroha throughout the waiata where Ngāwai writes 'E te Hokowhitu a Tū kia kaha rā, kāti rā te hingahinga ki raro rā' – *Oh brave band of Tū be strong, do not let yourselves be struck down* – and where she writes 'Ngā marae e tū noa nei, ngā maunga e tū noa nei, auē rā e tama mā, te mamae te pouri nui, e patu nei i ahau inā, kia kotahi rā' – *Lonely stands our marae, lonely stands our mountains, as, for you, our sons, the pain and deep sadness, that beats deep within me, stand together as one.*

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- ⑤ The lyrics and actions of the waiata are typical of waiata written by Ngāwai and other waiata ā-ringa composer of her time – easy to understand and deep with meaning. Also typical of Ngāwai, a musical counterpart occurs during the second run of the waiata where verses one and two are sung simultaneously.