

**MEDIA RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MĀORI MUSIC MONTH 2018 LAUNCHES WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 11th
ANNUAL WAIATA MĀORI MUSIC AWARD FINALISTS**

August, 2018- The Waiata Māori Music Awards are kicking off Māori Music Month this August with the announcement of the 2018 awards finalists.

Now in its 11th year, the Waiata Māori Music Awards celebrate excellence in Māori music and also aim to acknowledge and honour the keepers, teachers, promoters, creators and performers of Māori music.

The awards were established by the late composer, musician and teacher Tama Huata ONZM (Ngāti Kahungunu), a renowned leader and champion of the Māori Music and performing arts industry. Tama's daughter Ellison now helms the awards as the Executive Director and says "The calibre of the finalists in our 11th anniversary year is a great testament to the quality and diversity of Māori composers, musicians and performers that we have in Aotearoa. The Waiata Māori Music Awards provide a unique opportunity to celebrate both our traditional and contemporary Māori artists."

The Waiata Māori Music Awards' Ambassadors are some of New Zealand's most acclaimed Māori singer/songwriters: Maisey Rika, Taisha Tari, Rob Ruha and Tama Waipara championing the Waiata Māori Music Awards kaupapa.

This year's ceremony will be held on the evening of Friday September 14th in Hastings at the Clubs Hastings, Cnr of Victoria & Albert Street, Hastings.

The 2018 Waiata Māori Music Awards finalists are

Best Māori Female Solo Artist

[Ria Hall](#)

Sandy Mill - [Sandy Mill Music](#)

Huia Hamon - [Āio](#)

Best Māori Male Solo Artist

Troy Kingi

Rob Ruha

Seth Haapu

Best Māori Traditional Album Te Reo Māori

[Rob Ruha](#) Survivance
Maaka Moeke
REI - [Rangatira](#)

Best Māori Pop Album

[TROY KINGI](#) Shake that skinny as all the way to Zygerton
La Coco You Got Me
Maaka Moeke

Best Māori Urban Rap/Hip Hop/RnB Album

[Rob Ruha](#) -Survivance
REI [Rangatira](#)
La Coco – <https://itunes.apple.com/nz/album/love-other-things-pt-2-ep/1344014477>
love and other things part 2

Best Māori Urban Roots/Reggae Album

[Ria Hall](#) Rules of engagement
[Rob Ruha](#) Survivance
Tomorrow People Bbq reggae
<https://itunes.apple.com/nz/album/bbq-reggae/1333826373>

Best song by a Māori Artist

Troy Kingi – Aztechknowledgey [TROY KINGI ~ AZTECHKNOWLEDGEY](#)
Rob Ruha – Kalega [KALEGA](#)
LAB – Controller : [Lab controller](#)

Best Māori Songwriter

Rob Ruha - [Rob Ruha](#)
LAB - www.loop.co.nz
Seth Haapu- www.kehuamusic.com

Best Music video by a Māori Artist

Vallkyrie – [Vallkyrie - Aztec Breath](#)
Alien weaponry – [ALIEN WEAPONRY - Kai Tangata \(Official Video\) | Napalm Records](#)
Ria Hall – [Ria Hall - Te Ahi Kai Pō \[Official Music Video\]](#)
Seth Haapu – [Seth Haapu - New Wave \(Official Video\)](#)
Rob Ruha – [KALEGA](#)

Iconic Award Recipients

Keepers of Tradition **Derek Ladelli**
 Dame Georgina Kingi

Lifetime contribution to Māori Music Awards
 Monty Cowan

Music Industry Award **Carl Perkins**

Iconic Māori Music Composers Award – Historical
 Ngatai Huata

Throughout the month of August in the lead-up to the Awards, Waiata Māori Music Awards Trust presents, Māori Music Month with a series of events, including: Maori Musician Mentoring Workshops in schools Nationwide with Finalist, Recipients and Ambassadors of the Waiata Māori Music Awards partnered with the NZ Music Commission, Concerts in Hastings and Brisbane Australia, Emerging Artist on-live Competition which is happening through the month in search for Aotearoas Most Talented Māori emerging artist and the free Māori Music Conference – which will consist of round table discussions and presentation from the National and International music industry and festivals.

Māori Music Month & Waiata Māori Music Awards - Key Dates

Date: August 1st – 31st

Venue: Nationwide – Māori Musician Mentoring in Schools

Activity: Mentoring in composition, vocals, music, industry, performance

Dates: Thursday August 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th

Venue: Aotearoas Most Talented FB Page

Activity: Emerging Artist on-live Competition with Special Guests

FINALISTS:

Will get to attend the Māori Music Conference

VIP tickets to attend the 11th Waiata Maori Music Awards – where the winner will be announced

WAIATA MĀORI MUSIC AWARDS TRUST, AOTEAROAS MOST TALENTED, EAST COAST MUSIC, KIWA SOCIAL MEDIA

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE PRIZES TO THE VALUE OF \$8000

Will get to attend the Māori Music Conference

VIP passes to attend the 11th Waiata Māori Music Awards

Mentoring from Waiata Māori Music Ambassador – Maisey Rika

Recording Artist package - The winner will have their single produced
Recorded and distributed by East Coast Music.
Full marketing package including – professional Video
Photography
& Single Artwork

Dates: Thursday August 16th

Venue: Aotearoas Most Talented FB Page

Activity: Emerging Artist on-live Competition with Special Guests

Dates: Sunday August 19th

Venue: HB Maori Music Month Free Celebration Concert

Activity: Celebrating with a Free concert, performances from finalist & recipients of Waiata Māori Music Awards, Kahurangi and local Hawkes Bay talent

Dates: Thursday August 23rd

Venue: Aotearoas Most Talented FB Page

Activity: Emerging Artist on-live Competition with Special Guests

Dates: Friday August 24th

Venue: Beenleigh State High School, Brisbane, Australia

Activity: Maori Musician mentoring in Schools – Rob Ruha, Ria Hall & Jerome Kavanagh

Dates: Friday August 25th

Venue: Beenleigh State High School, Brisbane, Australia

Activity: Kiwi Karnival – celebrates Māori Music Month

Artists Ria Hall, Rob Ruha & the Witch Dr, Brown Suga, Entyce, C Major, Super 12 Kapa Haka Competition, Waiatatia Youth Competition, Te Tai Mauri, Nerang SHS, Beenleigh SHS, workshops and so much more.

Dates: Thursday August 30th

Venue: Aotearoas Most Talented FB Page

Activity: Emerging Artist on-live Competition with Special Guests

Dates: Thursday September 13th 9.30 – 4pm

Venue: Clubs Hastings

Activity: Māori Music Conference – Must register to attend

This is where we give the emerging and established artist the opportunity to take their music career to the next level! This year, the conference will feature Round Table discussions, presentations and one on one meetings. With International and national renowned music industry members.

Date: Friday September 14th 7.30am

Venue: Club Hastings

Activity: Breakfast with the Stars

Date: Friday September 14th 5.00pm

Venue: Club Hastings

Activity: 11th Waiata Māori Music Awards – Red Carpet

Date: Friday September 14th 7.00pm

Venue: Club Hastings

Activity: 11th Waiata Māori Music Awards

- ends -



www.waiatamaoriawards.co.nz

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Ticketing enquiries, please contact:

TICKETS: iticket.co.nz

Event & Media enquiries, please contact:

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