MEDIA RELEASE
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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 – Moeké
REI – Rangatira

Best Māori Pop Album

TROY KINGI – Shake that skinny as all the way to Zygerton
La Coco – You Got Me
Maaka – Moeké

Best Māori Urban Rap/Hip Hop/RnB Album

Rob Ruha – Survivance
REI – Rangatira
love and other things part 2

Best Māori Urban Roots/Reggae Album

Ria Hall – Rules of engagement
Rob Ruha – Survivance
Tomorrow People – Bbq reggae

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 Aotearoa 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: Aotearoa 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: Māori 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

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www.waiatamaoriawards.co.nz

Follow Māori Music Month on Facebook: Te Marama Pūoru Waiata Māori
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Ticketing enquiries, please contact:

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