



TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI
AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL

A photograph of a woman performing on stage, singing into a microphone and making a peace sign. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved top and a light-colored skirt with a decorative belt. The background is dark with stage lights. The entire image is overlaid with a purple tint.

Indigenous Music Series

 Digital Show Programme

Spiegeltent, Aotea Square + Regional Venues

18–23 March 2025

Indigenous Music Series

About the Series

Hei whakanui i te Tekau Tau a Te Kotahitanga o ngāWhenua o te Ao mō ngā Reo Taketake, e ngākau titikaha ana Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki kia rauhītia he puoro nā ētahi ringapuoro iwi taketake nō ngā whenua o te ao hei āpiti ki ngā pūkenga puoro nō Aotearoa nei. Whai wāhi mai ana ki te tuatahi o ngā Rārangi Puoro Taketake hei te tau 2025 ko ētahi ringapuoro me ētahi kaiwaiatakaitito waiata nō ngā kāwai Creole, Hawai'i, Diné Navajo anō hoki. Kia rite mai kia kori tahi ki te puoro tautito o nāianeī, kia pīoioi tahi ki ngā rangi nō Hawai'i, kia kani tahi hoki ki ngā puoro R&B, haukori, kōmanawa anō hoki.

In recognition of the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Languages, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is committed to curating music by Indigenous artists from around the world to complement our local Aotearoa talent. The inaugural Indigenous Music Series for 2025 includes musicians and singersongwriters from Creole, Hawaiian and Diné Navajo heritage. Prepare to groove along to contemporary jazz, sway to Hawaiian tunes, and dance away to R&B, funk and soul music.

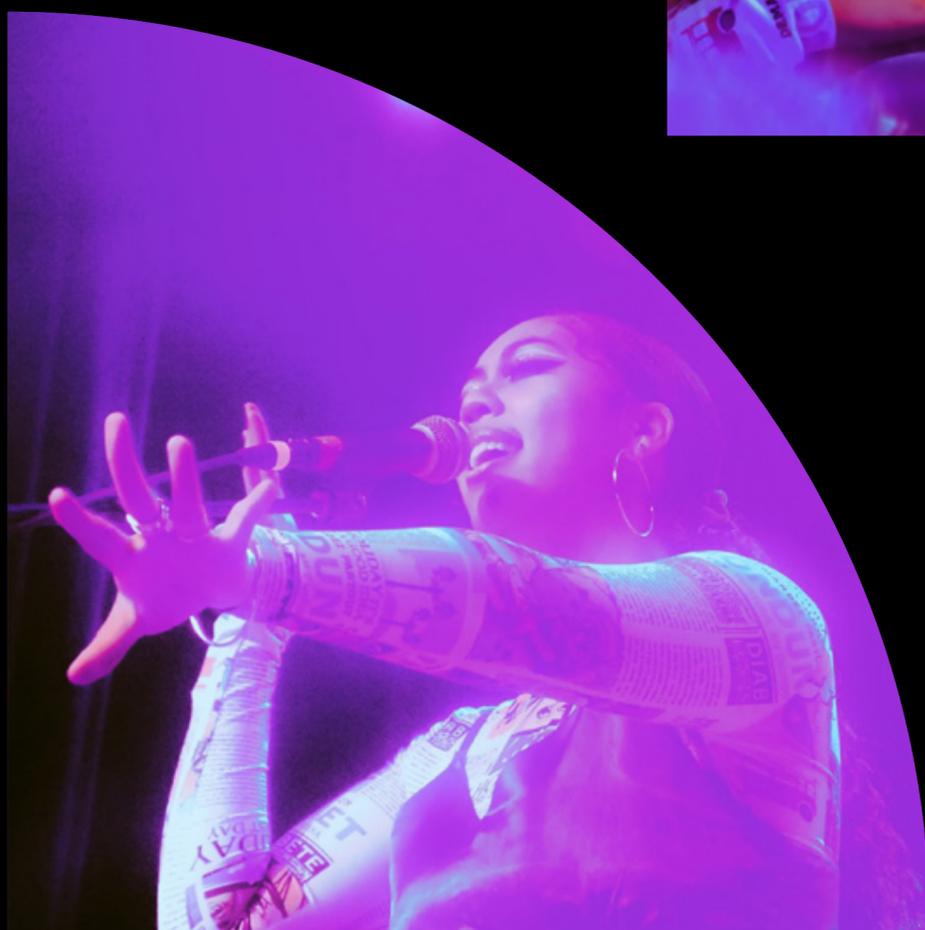
? **All performances,
1hr 15mins no interval**
Suitable for all ages.



Indigenous Music Series

Maya Piata

Maya Piata



PERFORMING SOLO:

**Te Oro Music & Arts
Centre, Glen Innes**

Tue 18 March, 7.00pm

**Spiegeltent, Aotea
Square (City Centre)**

Thu 20 March, 6.30pm

JOINTLY WITH KULĀIWI & KAUMAKAIWA:

**Artworks Theatre,
Waiheke Island**

Wed 19 March, 7.00pm

**Māngere Arts Centre –
Ngā Tohu o Uenuku**

Fri 21 March, 7.00pm

Indigenous Music Series

About the Artist • Maya Piata

Maya Piata, known for her radiant “Sunshine Soul” style, brings a rich blend of cultural and musical influences from her New Orleans birthplace and New Zealand roots. Born into the vibrant rhythms of Motown, Pop and R&B, Piata grew up inspired by legends like Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Stevie Wonder, as well as the gospel sounds that filled her childhood. Her connection to her Māori heritage (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) deepens her love for indigenous sounds, woven intricately into her songs as an expression of identity and tradition.

Music has been a constant in her life, from cooking alongside elders at family functions to childhood performances like her first solo in the kindergarten choir. Her early career took off in New Zealand, where she debuted on the Whakaata Māori TV show *Homai Te PakiPaki*, then premiered her original songs on radio stations Raukawa FM and Tuwharetoa FM. Her journey continued stateside, where she assembled bandmates to record two EPs, *Sunny Days* and *Vernal*, which launched her career that now includes highlights such as TEDx Talk, SoFar Sounds and a year-long residency in America’s #1 Arts District, Dallas, Texas. Piata’s songs carry messages of healing and hope, creating soulful, authentic experiences that connect deeply with listeners through heartfelt lyrics and a powerful voice. Piata’s music aims to uplift and connect, bringing listeners messages of joy, love and empowerment, inviting listeners to celebrate, heal and feed their soul.



Indigenous Music Series

Kulāiwi & Kaumakaiwa



Kulāiwi & Kaumakaiwa



PERFORMING SOLO:

**Te Oro Music & Arts
Centre, Glen Innes**

Thu 20 March, 7.00pm

**Spiegeltent, Aotea
Square (City Centre)**

Sat 22 March, 6.30pm

JOINTLY WITH MAYA PIATA:

**Artworks Theatre,
Waiheke Island**

Wed 19 March, 7.00pm

**Māngere Arts Centre –
Ngā Tohu o Uenuku**

Fri 21 March, 7.00pm

Indigenous Music Series

About the Artists • Kulāiwi

Shawn Kekoa Pimental is a five-time Na Hoku Hanohano award winner and Grammy-nominated music producer and artist. Co-owner of Studio Ala Moana, a prime recording studio in Honolulu, he also owns the record label Koops2 Entertainment. He has provided his talents on guitar, drums, bass and vocals for such artists as Keali'i Reichel, Kaumakaiwa and Na Leo Pilimehana.

Lehua Kalima, a founding member of the renowned trio Na Leo Pilimehana, has been performing for over 30 years. With her roots in Hawaiian music and her passion for folk and pop, Kalima has penned and recorded over 35 songs. She has received 20 Na Hoku awards with Na Leo, three as a solo artist, and four with Kulāiwi.

David 'Kawika' Kahiapo. From windward O`ahu, Kawika finds a never-ending source of inspiration in the breathtaking Ko`olau mountain range, lush, green valleys and magnificent ocean views. His interest in music began early, inspired by his father, and he learned slack key guitar from some of the greats. Kawika entered the professional music scene at age 17 and has since contributed to more than 84 recording projects and performed with numerous artists.



Indigenous Music Series

About the Artists • Kulāiwi

Pono Fernandez has formally trained in the art of hula since she was a child. An award-winning hula dancer, she has shared stages around the world with musical artists like Robert Cazimero, Ho'okena, Nā Leo Pilimehana, and others. Besides having a deep love for hula, she is also a writer, scholar, educator, and a student of traditional feather work. Performing with Kulāiwi weaves together all of her worlds and is an opportunity to share her mission of aloha 'āina and uplifting Hawaiian and Indigenous knowledge.

Kulāiwi received the 2022 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Album of the Year Award, Hawaiian Album of the Year Award, Group of the Year Award, and Hawaiian Engineering Award of the Year. Together, the synergy they create is both heard and felt by their audiences.

Kulāiwi means “land of my ancestors.” With soaring vocals, island harmonies and a folk vibe, along with an easy-going charisma and witty banter, they are committed to telling the stories of Hawai'i — the land and the people — from their Indigenous points-of-view. Their prodigious talents as lyricists and composers create music imbued with Hawaiian values and ways of seeing and living in the world. Both their original songs and their selections of Hawaiian classics are inspired by diverse musical styles and reflect their passionate commitment to their islands.

Indigenous Music Series

About the Artists • Kaumakaiwa

Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole has been on stage since she could walk. A charismatic dancer and singer, with an impressive vocal range from tenor chant to Hawaiian falsetto singing, she is a five-time Nā Hōkū Hanohano (Hawaiian "Grammy") award winner with three solo CDs to her name. She is the great grandchild of Edith Kanaka'ole, who was one of the seminal figures of the Hawaiian Renaissance which helped bring Hawaiian culture back into the central life of the Islands. Since birth, Kaumakaiwa has dedicated her life to her illustrious family's practice and passion — hula (Hālau O Kekuhi) and Hawaiian culture. Her vocal performances are an outgrowth of the Hawaiian art of chant and songwriting, with roots in rhythms and metaphors of hula. She was honored with an NACF (Native Arts & Cultures Foundation) Fellowship Award. In 2018, she was invited to be an Opening Plenary Speaker at the APAP's annual national conference in New York, as well as sit on a world music panel. She was the first Hawaiian performer to appear at globalFEST in New York.

A modern transgender Hawaiian (mahu wahine), she is a vibrant keeper of culture, an authentic innovator, and fun, as she engages Indigenous thought to address today's issues through music, chant, and sharing of spirit. With plenty of humor, she provides wry commentary and stories to give context to her songs.



Indigenous Music Series

Whiua ki te Ao – A celebration of waiata reo Māori



Whiua ki te Ao

A celebration of waiata reo Māori

Spiegeltent, Aotea Square (City Centre)

Fri 21 March, 6.30pm

Aotearoa Songbook content presented with support from



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APRA AMCOS
Te Tautāwhinga
kaitiaki puoro, kaitiaki pūoru

Indigenous Music Series

Whiua ki te Ao – A celebration of waiata reo Māori

Nau mai ki Whiua ki te Ao, he pō whakangahau e whakanui ana i ngā waiata reo Māori rongonui.

Torohia te pae tukutuku aotearoasongbook.com kia kitea ai ngā kupu, ngā kōrero me ngā kōpae oro o ēnei waiata.

Welcome to Whiua ki te Ao, a celebration of songs in te reo Māori.

Visit the website aotearoasongbook.com for lyrics, stories and audio clips for these and other songs.

Ngā kaiwaiata o te pō:

Angitu

Leon Blake

Seth Haapu

Tuakoi Ohia

Pania Papa

Pere Wihongi

Whai muri i te waiata tahitanga, me noho hāneanea, ā, whakaronga ki te reo rōreka o Maisey Rika.

Following the sing along, sit back and enjoy the magical voice of Maisey Rika.

Indigenous Music Series

Whiua ki te Ao – A celebration of waiata reo Māori

Waiata

Tukua tō reo waiata kia rere!
Let your singing voice fly!

♪♪ Aku Mahi ♪♪

♪♪ Purea Nei ♪♪

♪♪ He Aha kei Taku Uma ♪♪

♪♪ Tahi Nei Taru Kino ♪♪

♪♪ Pā Mai ♪♪

♪♪ Tomo Mai ♪♪

♪♪ Me he Manu Rere ♪♪

♪♪ Tūtira Mai Ngā Iwi ♪♪

♪♪ He Putiputi Koe ♪♪

♪♪ Toro Mai ♪♪

♪♪ Tukua Ahau ♪♪

♪♪ Te Hokinga Mai ♪♪

**Tap the waiata to sing along
and learn more about the lyrics.**

Indigenous Music Series

Delbert Anderson Quartet



Delbert Anderson Quartet

Spiegeltent, Aotea Square (City Centre)

Sun 23 March, 3.00pm

Indigenous Music Series

About the Artists • Delbert Anderson Quartet

Delbert Anderson Quartet is led by Navajo (Diné) jazz trumpeter and composer, **Delbert Anderson**. He is both a leader and innovator in today's contemporary Jazz scene and a Diné culture bearer. His work brings forth traditional Diné songs once sung in Diné social circles called "spinning songs," and captures their voice in the language of jazz and funk.

Through the support of visionary multi-cultural jazz fusion drummer Khalill Brown, pianist Robert Muller and bassist Mike McCluhan, Anderson builds safe havens for Diné melodies to converse with various styles and pathways for expression. In all their forms, compositions are guided by the time-immemorial Diné principles of Hózhó-harmony, beauty and balance with self, other and nature and K'é or kinship. In this way, Anderson connects across genre and culture, all the while, remaining steadfast in a signature sound that is as strong as the centuries of traditions it was built upon.

Anderson is joined by keyboardist **Robert Muller**, bassist **Evan Suiter** and funk/fusion drummer **Khalill Brown**, who has roots in the Blackfoot and Cherokee tribes.



About the Festival

Who We Are

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival is a melting pot of shared experiences, whakaaro, live entertainment and kōrero every March.

Our lifeblood is arts and culture in contemporary Tāmaki Makaurau. We care deeply about celebrating artists both here in Aotearoa and from around the world, serving the creatives and communities behind the works we present, honouring te reo and te ao Māori in all that we do, and contributing to a better city and society. That's us.

Every March you'll see a big reunion with our city's arts community — many of whom we consider our whānau whānui, our extended family — alongside our mahi towards better accessibility and education opportunities for our audiences. We're also passionate about the works we curate and our collaboration with the many people who make those experiences happen. We strive to celebrate with generosity; human connection and manaakitanga will always be at the heart of what we stand for.

When we're on, we're on a mission to make Auckland an amazing place to socialise and be entertained in. Whether you're discovering the city for the first time or rekindling your love for its hidden gems, we truly believe there's something for everyone at the Festival.

The Auckland Festival Trust Ph +64 09 309 0989 Email info@aaf.co.nz

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue, Auckland 1010

PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142, Aotearoa New Zealand

About the Festival

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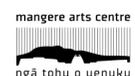
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Digital Show Programme





TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI
AUCKLAND
ARTS FESTIVAL

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Also Like...

a mixtape for maladies

In this unforgettable play by Ahilan Karunaharan, 17 nostalgic pop tracks chart the deeply moving journey of a Sri Lankan family from civil war to a new life in modern-day Aotearoa.

Theatre

World Premiere



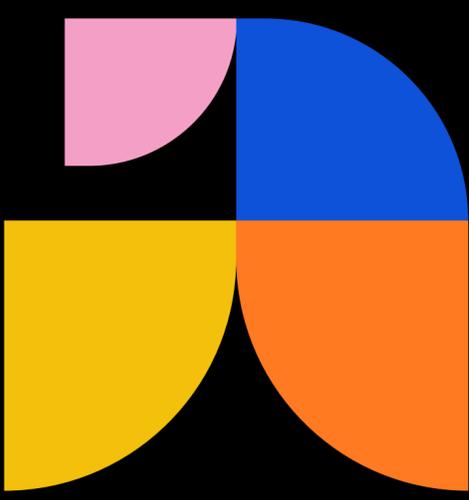
Tap to learn more

ASB Waterfront Theatre

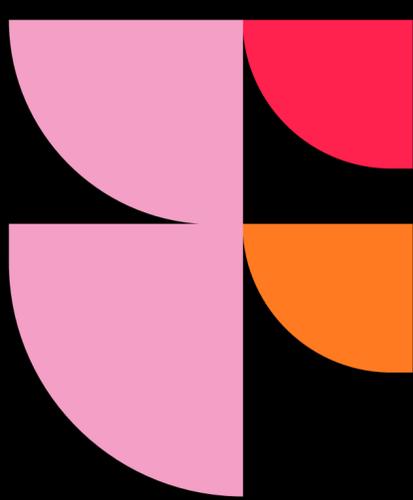
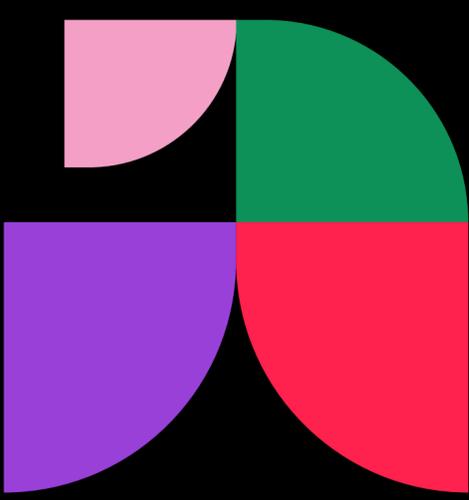
4-23 March 2025

IT'S *THE* FESTIVAL.

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TE AHUREI
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AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

6—23
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