

Mp3 Waiata Reka - Sweet Maori Songs

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Original delicious songs from the South Pacific based on ancient legends yet modern and accessible. 15 MP3 Songs WORLD: Island, KIDS/FAMILY: Kid Friendly Details: Kiaora from Aotearoa - the Land of the Long White Cloud (the Maori name for New Zealand.) Most of these exquisite songs are inspired by the rich tapestry of Maori legends, which are some of the finest in the world, up there with the Greek myths. Notes about the tracks: 1. Kiaora means "Hello" or "Good day". The lyrics for this song are all greetings. 2. Hinemoa is a famous Maori maiden, ancestor of Te Arawa tribe. Every night, her lover Tutanekai (see track 11) who lived on Mokoia Island in the middle of Lake Rotorua, played his koauau (Maori flute) to her across the lake. They arranged for Hinemoa to row across the lake to him but her family, suspecting something was up, pulled the waka (canoes) high up the shore so she was unable to move them. She ended up swimming across the lake to her love. This track is a song to her sung by Tutanekai. On track 11, Hinemoa expresses her love to Tutanekai. 3. Mauria wai taki wai This means come and sing my song. The track is a nonsense action song. In the first verse: auau is the bark of a dog, ngawi is the howl of a dog, keke the quack of a duck and titi the squeak of a mouse. The second verse features native New Zealand birds: kaka, tui, kiwi plus kuku, the cry of the kereru (wood pigeon). In the bridge: kiti kita is the sound of insects. peho the hoot of the owl, pu! the sound of a musket firing and riko riko the twinkling of stars. In the third verse: aue! means alas!, hoihoi! be quiet!, hope! put your hands on your hips! and moimoi is what you say when you call a dog. 4. I have plan This and track 9 are inspired by the legend of the Kopuwai, a strange dog-headed man, who captures a young maiden, Kaiamio, after she becomes separated from her whanau (family) on a food-gathering outing. The Kopowai enslaves her and makes her fetch water from a stream. To ensue she wont escape, he ties some flax rope to her hair and regularly checks she is there by pulling on the rope. She hatches a plan and escapes by tying her end of the rope to a rock. 5. Parade of the kai moana Kai moana is seafood. This track features the sound of the putatara (conch) and Samoan drums. 6. The heart of a kereru. The kereru is the beautiful New Zealand wood pigeon. This refers to a gruesome but beautiful legend about a dominating woman who will eat nothing but kereru hearts. After killing all the kereru in the forest, her desperate husband takes their son hunting

with him, kills the boy, cuts his heart out and brings it home. After she has eaten it, the wife realises what her husband has done and rushes through the forest calling for her song. Sometimes, when you're in the bush by yourself, you will hear the eerie sound of this woman. 7. Im a tohunga. A tohunga is a Maori priest. This and tracks 8 and 14 all refer to the ancient story of Kae and the whale. Tinirau has a pet whale called Tutunui, who comes when he is called, allows Tinirau to ride on his back and doesn't mind Tinirau, occasionally, cutting a piece of blubber off him. Kae an old tohunga arrives to perform the tohi (baptism) ceremony on Tinirau's son. When he is shown Tutunui and given a strip of whale meat to eat, Kae has a wicked plan - he pleads with Tinirau to be allowed to ride home on the back of the whale. When Tinirau relents, Kae rides off and, when he arrives home, kills Tutunui and eats him. When she learns what Kae has done, Tinirau's wife takes a party of women to Kae's island. They entice Kae into a deep sleep with a magic sleeping spell. The problem is, Kae never seems to fall asleep. Eventually, they discover his trick - he has placed pieces of paua (abalone) shell on his eyes so, in the darkness, he appears to be awake. The women return home with Kae and he is punished. 8. Magic sleeping spell. See notes for track 7. 9. Kua Ngaro au Kua ngaro au means I am lost and introduces Kiamiao. See notes for track 4. 10. Kihikihi Kihikihi is a cicada and also the noise one makes. In the Maori fable, Kihikihi sings and sits around all day refusing to make any plans for the future. Popokorua (Ant), in contrast, spends the summer collecting food because she knows winter is approaching. (See track 13 for the Ants song.) When winter inevitably comes, Kihikihi dies of starvation while Popokorua is warm and comfortable in her hole under the tree. 11. Tutanekai Tutanekai was Hinemoa's lover. See notes for track 2. 12. Pets/ Ka kite ano Two short tracks. Pets is a treasury of Maori bird onomatopoeia. Ka kite ano means see you later and is a farewell song. - all the lyrics are Maori farewells. 13. Wintertime See notes for track 10. 14. Tutunui Tutunui was the name of a pet whale. See notes for track 7. 15. Kiaora # 2 See notes for track 1. The songwriter, Arif Usmani, has written hundreds and hundreds of songs. Other bands that perform his songs are StarFish, Demolition Decorators, Sweet Samaritans, The Aunties, The Jews Brothers, Bodily Functions and The Frank E Evans Entertainment Band.

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