

Presented by Jerry McCulloch

ME HE MANU RERE

This very popular Maori love song is quite an old one. It was featured in a British film, The Seekers, a story of old New Zealand. This film was given wide release several years ago and as a result, "Mamu rere" was revived and since then has enjoyed considerable renewed popularity.

Here is one verse of this very popular song and a simplified set of actions which are good examples of the way in which the actions illustrate the words in an action song. For ease of learning, the version of the actions given here is much more simple than that normally performed with this song.

SOURCE: The song came from North Auckland. This version is based on that performed by the Kia Ora Club of Brigham Young University under the direction of Arapata Whaanga. Mr Whaanga is also the dance director of the "Te Aroha Maori" concert group that performed at the Hollywood Bowl and on Broadway in New York City recently.

STYLE: Action-song. Erect, proud posture. Feet moving in basic "hope" pattern: R ft moves out on beat to take wt from L--causing a shift of the body and rotation of the hips. This should not be exaggerated. The R ft beats time, merely leaving the ground a few inches. Hands are on the hips.

THE SONG:

Me he manu rere ahau e
Rere tiki ki to moenga
Kite awhi to tinana
(No rei ra)
E te tau tahuri mai

Had I the wings of a bird
I would fly to you whilst you are dreaming
To hold you there and caress you
My beloved turn to me

PATTERN

Leader: Kite hope: Group begins "hope" movement as described above.
Ringa e whiua: Hands go to front of body with arms bent at R angles, keeping time with the beat. Hands continually quiver.

One of the group gives the pitch by singing the first line of the song, at the end of which the leader shouts "Toru, Wha". (Three, four) and the dance begins.

- 1 Both arms in R angle pos go slightly behind body and scoop fwd
- 2 Hands flip inward at wrists, then out.
- 3 Hands clap
- 4 A beckoning gesture. Palms of hands face inward as arms reach out in front of body and slightly to the left "manu"
- 5 Pat the chest in time to the musical beat but the palms do not actually contact the chest. "rere"
- 6 Repeat 4
- 7 Repeat 5
- 8 Repeat 4
- 9 Repeat 5
- 10-12 Repeat 1-3 "rere"
- 13-18 The hands are held pillow fashion behind the R ear and do not come in

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- contact with the head. The body is upright on the first beat of each bar then sways back with the R shldr turning slightly to R. Continue fwd and back sway in time with the music. (ti ka ki to moenga)
- 19-21 Repeat 1-3 (ki te)
- 22-28 On the first beat of each bar the L arm and hand are closest to the body with the R hand on the outside. (6 times total)
On the third beat of each bar the pos is reversed i.e. the R hand comes in over the top of the L so that it is closest to the body.
- 29-30 Repeat 1-2 "No re ira"
- 31 Hands clap "E"
- 32 Repeat 4
- 33 Repeat 5 "tau ta"
- 34 Put R hand straight fwd, palm down, L arm bent at angle behind head, palm fwd while entire body turns to face L "huri"
- 35 Both arms out in front of body with palm down. "mai"

Hold this position with ft keeping time in "hope" until leader calls "Toru,Wha"-- then turn front and repeat entire dance again.

At the conclusion of the dance the second time the leader calls "Tahi, Rua,Toru, Wha" (1,2,3,4) and the entire group faces fwd immediately and answers "HEI!" at the same time putting hands on hips and stopping all movement.

Handwritten musical notation on a staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: 1 (quarter), 2 (quarter), 3 (quarter), 4 (quarter), 5 (quarter), 6 (quarter), 7 (quarter), 8 (quarter). The lyrics are: Me he ma-nu-re-re a-hau e , Re-re ti-kaki to mo-e-ma

Handwritten musical notation on a staff with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: 9 (quarter), 10 (quarter), 11 (quarter), 12 (quarter), 13 (quarter), 14 (quarter), 15 (quarter), 16 (quarter). The lyrics are: Ki te a-whi'toti- na---na, E te tautahuri mai---

No rei va

(E 4/4)

E papa wai-a-ri ta-kunē ma-hi Tā-kunē nei ma-hi hei tu-kuroi ma-ta

E papa wai-a-ri ta-kunē ma-hi Tā-kunē nei ma-hi he tu-kuroi-ma-ta

(MAKU E)

E au-e ka ma-te au E hine hoki i ho ra — Ma-ku e

Kante o hi-koi ta-mga Ma-ku e kante o hi koi ta-mga hi-koi ta-mga

(HURI-HURI)

Segue
"Huri Huri"

Huri huri Huri huri o ma-ha-ra e Ki-te-tau kite tau kite tau e

Ki-te ra-wa ko-re ra-wa o ma-ha-ra e Kia-koe ra e Hi-me HEI!