

Intro: "E te Hokowhitu a Tū, toru, wha"

Backup vocals: harmonize throughout.

Key: C

E Te Hokowhitu

Tempo: ? BPM Tuini Moetu Haangu Ngawai

<https://folksong.org.nz/etehokowhitu/index.html>

C/12

E te Hokowhitu a Tū, kia kaha rā

C7/4

Kāti rā te hingahinga ki raro rā

F/8

Mā ngā whakaaro kei runga rawa

C/8

Hei arahi ki te ara e tika ai

G7/8

Whirinaki, whirinaki tātou katoa

C/6

G7/2

Kia kotahi rā

Oh war-party of the war god be strong

Put a stop to the slaughter down there.

Act on a plan (be guided) from the very top (by God)
to guide you to the path that is the right one.

Depend, depend upon each other
and stand together as one.

C/12

Ngā marae e tū noa nei

C7/4

Ngā maunga e tū noa nei

F/8

Aue! rā e tama mā

C/8

Te mamae te pouri e

G7/8

C/6

G7/2

E patu nei i ahau inā, kia kotahi rā

The marae stand lonely here

The mountains stand lonely here

ah! for you, our sons,
the pain and deep sadness
beats so deep within me.

8/21/22



C/12

C7/4

F/8

C/8

Ngarimu aue anei to iwi e,

G7/8

C/6

G7/2

e rurutu nei

Ngarimu, loved one, Here is your tribe

Lamenting your death

This song has been popular since the Second World War when the young men of the Maori Battalion were away fighting in North Africa and Italy.

This song was first performed at the great Ngarimu memorial hui on October 6, 1943. On that occasion, tribes from all over New Zealand gathered on the marae of the Ngati Porou people in the shadow of towering Mt. Hikurangi. The occasion was to pay tribute to the memory of 2nd Lieutenant Moana-nui-a-Kiwa Ngarimu, the Maori Victoria Cross winner.

E te Hokowhitu-a-Tu was not originally conceived for this occasion. Tuini Ngawai wrote it over a two-year period. She shelved it several times and then finally completed it in a three-minute burst. In the middle of the song the tune and rhythm change abruptly and there follows a short lament for the hero Ngarimu.

E te Hokowhitu-a-Tu was written to the tune of Glenn Miller's big band tune In the Mood.