

FROM IDEA TO STAGE



NAME _____

CLASS _____

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NZ MUSIC COMMISSION



WORKSHEET 1

MEET THE WHĀNAU

FOCUS QUESTION

Who are the musicians behind this series, and what can their careers tell you about a life in music?

MEET THE WHĀNAU



ARAHİ

Arahi is a songwriter and performer whose work spans the music industry, from festival stages to soundtracks, theatre, and screen.

His debut EP **Revelator** (2023) was produced by **Dave Khan**, and his song 'My Baby's Like a Hurricane' was nominated for a Top 20 APRA Silver Scroll Award. He also collaborates widely, performing as a member of Māori rock trio **Te Tokotoru**, alt-folk duo **Pony Baby**, and features as session player for acts such as **Tory Kingi**, **Triggarr Happy** and **Greta van den Brink**.

RESEARCH PROMPT

Look up one of Arahi's projects — solo, Te Tokotoru, Pony Baby, or Troy Kingi. How does his sound or purpose change depending on who he's collaborating with?

MEET THE WHĀNAU



EDY

EDYONTHEBEAT is the production alias of **Edward Liu**, an Auckland-based producer and mix engineer whose work blends pop, R&B/soul, reggae, and hip hop for local and international artists.

Before working in music full-time, EDY spent three years as a secondary school music teacher. He has since built a large following through livestreamed production sessions, amassing **170M+ streams** and close to **500 production credits**. His upcoming album ***i'm just a producer*** brings an impressive roster of collaborators from ex-**Fifth Harmony** member **Dinah Jane** to **Jaedyn Randell**.

RESEARCH PROMPT

Find a track EDY has produced or mixed. What genres can you hear blended together, and what role do you think the producer played in shaping the final song?

MEET THE WHĀNAU



NICOLA

Nicola Mitchell is a country musician and 2025 Country Music Honour winner. With her twin sister Maegan, she performs as **The Mitchell Twins**, an APRA Best Country Song-nominated duo, and she also tours with her sister **Jenny Mitchell**.

Nicola is learning te reo Māori through rumaki reo (language immersion) at Te Wānanga o Raukawa, and released ***Te Ngahere*** — a bilingual debut album for tamariki, written together with **THEIA** (Te Kaahu, TŪI/AMA Nominee), **KOMMI** (Mātanga Reo/translator for **Marlon Williams**) & **Byllie-Jean** (Tate Music Prize winner 2025) and children from across Aotearoa — under the alias **Niccolo Piccolo**.

RESEARCH PROMPT

Listen to a song by The Mitchell Twins or from Niccolo Piccolo. How does Nicola blend country music traditions with her own culture and community?

MEET THE WHĀNAU



REBEL

Rebel Reid is a guitarist, songwriter, and producer known for her work with the band **Valkyrie** and for her solo music. She weaves her Māori heritage into her songwriting, and became the first Māori artist to record at **Elvis Presley**'s studio in Memphis.

Rebel started out as a finalist in the **Play It Strange** songwriting competition, and now judges the National Secondary School Songwriting Competition herself. Rebel is also a guitarist in **Atomic**: the ultimate femme rock supergroup of Aotearoa.

RESEARCH PROMPT

Research Rebel Reid's band Valkyrie or her solo work. In what ways does she bring her own identity and heritage into her music?

THINK AND DISCUSS

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