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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

## Level 1 Music 2024

**91950 Demonstrate understanding of music in  
relation to contexts**

**EXEMPLAR**

**Achievement**

### **Tangaroa Whakamautai - Maisey Rika**

"Tangaroa Whakamautai" is a captivating song by Maisey Rika, a celebrated Maori singer and songwriter known for her soulful voice. She is known for her deep connection with the Maori cultural roots in her songs. "Tangaroa Whakamautai" is a good example of that, as this song honors the Tangaroa Maori God of the sea. This song also emphasizes the importance of protecting and cherishing the sea which is considered a sacred part of the Maori culture. Maisey Rika's soulful voice and the traditional Maori musical elements create a beautiful evocative listening experience. The blend of Maori traditional instruments makes this song moving and charming.

In "Tangaroa Whakamautai" Maisey Rika uses Maori Musical concepts like Taonga Puoro, and Te Reo Maori creating a rich culturally resonant piece. Taonga Puoro are traditional Maori Musical instruments carry a deep and spiritual connection to nature. In this song "Tangaroa Whakamautai" evokes the sounds of the natural world and honors Tangaroa, the god of the sea. Some of those instruments contribute to the song like Putatara, a conch shell trumpet produces a powerful sound that can be heard over long distances. In "Tangaroa Whakamautai" this might be used to symbolize the call of the ocean creating a sense of connection to the sea. Koauau this small flute often made from wood or bone, has a soft melodic tone. Its music evokes the gentle lapping of waves of the wind over the water adding a reflective quality to the song. Putorino unique instruments can produce both high and low tones, representing the dual nature of the sea calm and nurturing yet powerful and unpredictable it is used to mirror the diverse character of Tangaroa. These instruments are connected with the spirit of the nature world and the world of ancestors including them in the song honors and calls upon these elements.

This song is in Te Reo Maori language. By singing in Te Reo Maori Maisey Rika not only represents and promotes their language but also conveys the cultural, and spiritual significance of the song themes. The use of Te Reo ensures that the song remains true to its cultural roots and shows respect for their culture and for the sea in a deep way. It expresses the emotions that might be lost in the translation, especially those related to the natural world. By using Te Reo Maori, Maisey Rika promotes their language to the world, listeners who may not be fluent in the language will still appreciate the beauty of this language, Te

Reo Maori. They will be encouraged to learn more about the language.

Except for these Maori Musical concepts, the lyrical and flowing melody of this song represents the sea which gives a soothing quality to the song. The harmonies of this song is simple yet effective while the rhythm is steady and gentle. The simplicity of the harmony allows the melody and lyrics to stand out. This song follows a verse-chorus structure which is quite typical in contemporary music and the texture is relatively sparse with a focus on the vocals and traditional instruments, this creates a reflective and intimate atmosphere allowing the listener to connect deeply with the music. Timbre is rich and warm with Maisey Rika's voice at the forefront. The use of traditional instruments like Koauau ( flute ) and Putatatra ( shell trumpet ) adds unique natural sounds enhancing the song's connection to the sea. This song uses repetition, particularly in the chorus to reinforce its central theme.

In conclusion " Tangaroa Whakamautai " by Maisey Rika beautifully mixes Maori cultural, historical, and environmental contexts, promoting guardianship and respect for the ocean through music.

## Achievement

**Subject:** Music

**Standard:** 91950

### Marker commentary

**Tangaroa Whakamautai.** The candidate has clearly stated the context as the composer's Maori cultural roots and Tangaroa – the Maori god of the sea, stating "She [Maisey Rika] is know for her deep connection with the Maori cultural roots in her songs. "Tangaroa Whakamautai" is a good example of that, as the song honors the Tangaroa Maori God of the sea.

The candidate has then linked a musical concept, the choice of musical instruments used in the piece to the context. "Tangaroa Whakamautai" evokes the sounds of the natural world and honors Tangaroa, the god of the sea. Some of the instruments contribute to the song like Putatara, a conch shell trumpet, produces a powerful sound that can be heard over long distances. In "Tangaroa Whakamautai" this might be used to symbolize the call of the ocean creating a sense of connection to the sea."

The candidate has described linked the composer's choice to use Te Reo Maori to her cultural roots. "By singing in Te Reo Maori Maisey Rika not only represents and promotes their language but also conveys the cultural and spiritual significance of the song themes. The use of Te Reo ensures that the song remains true to its cultural roots and shows respect for their culture and the sea..."

# Just A Girl - No Doubt

Just A Girl by No Doubt is a song about pushing back on stereotypes that are set on women. This song captures the frustration that Gwen feels and shows how she wants to push back on the social norms and be who she wants to be without fear of being judged or even hurt.

Just A Girl is written in the style of ska punk which

- Brass instruments
- woodwind instruments
- Lively tempo

The instruments used in this song include

- Drums
- Electric guitar
- Vocals
- bass
- trumpet
- Trombone
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## Lyrics

The lyrics of the song show the frustration that Gwen ( the song writer) was feeling at the time the lyrics talk about the restrictions and expectations set on women.

**'Cause I'm just a girl I'd rather not be (1,11)**

**'Cause they won't let me drive late at night**

**Oh I'm just a girl, guess I'm some kind of freak**

**'Cause they all sit and stare with their eyes**

The last two lines of this verse say how people just stare at them i think she is trying to say how she is more the just a pretty face and how she would prefer if people would see who she was on a deeper level not just the surface.

The key of this song is D major while the bpm sits at 108 the chords used in the song are D, Bm, A and G. by reusing the same chords again it helps to make the song more memorable.

During the start of the song there doesnt seem to be much going on with only electric guitar and vocals but as the song progresses they add more texture by adding more instruments and I think that this was to make it sound angry and to show her frustration. Another example of this is the guitar, during the verses the guitar sounds more like a girly kind of pop song but when the chorus happens it starts to sound angry and grungy this shows the contrast of how she is expected to feel and how she really is.

By bringing attention to these issues this song becomes a protest against the unspoken rules and expectations that are set for women, this song is like a anthem for gender equality and feminist movments. The upbeat and fun sounding melody along with the contrasting serious lyrics help to make this song catchy and unforgettable and also impactful.

## Achievement

**Subject:** Music

**Standard:** 91950

### Marker commentary

**Just a Girl** – In this script the candidate has clearly stated the context as the “pushing back on stereotypes that are set on women. This song captures the frustration that Gwen (composer) feels and shows how she wants to push back on the social norms and be who she wants to be.”

The candidate has taken a lyrical excerpt from the piece and linked it to the stated context. “The lyrics of the song show the frustration that Gwen (the song writer) was feeling at the time the lyrics talk about the restrictions and expectation set on women.

The last two lines of this verse say how people just stare at them I think she is trying to say how she is more than just a pretty face and how she would prefer if people would see who she was on a deeper level not just the surface.”

The candidate also makes a **music-based** link to the context describing how the timbral changes of the guitar between the verses (girly pop song) and choruses (angry and grungy) link back to the context she outlined earlier.

“...during the verses the guitar sounds more like a girly kind of pop song but when the chorus happens it starts to sound angry and grungy this shows the contrast of how she is expected to feel and how she really is.