

**BACKGROUND
TO THE
UNITED KINGDOM
INVITATION**

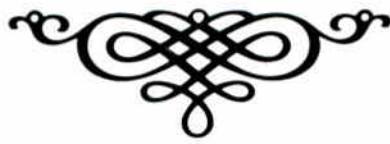


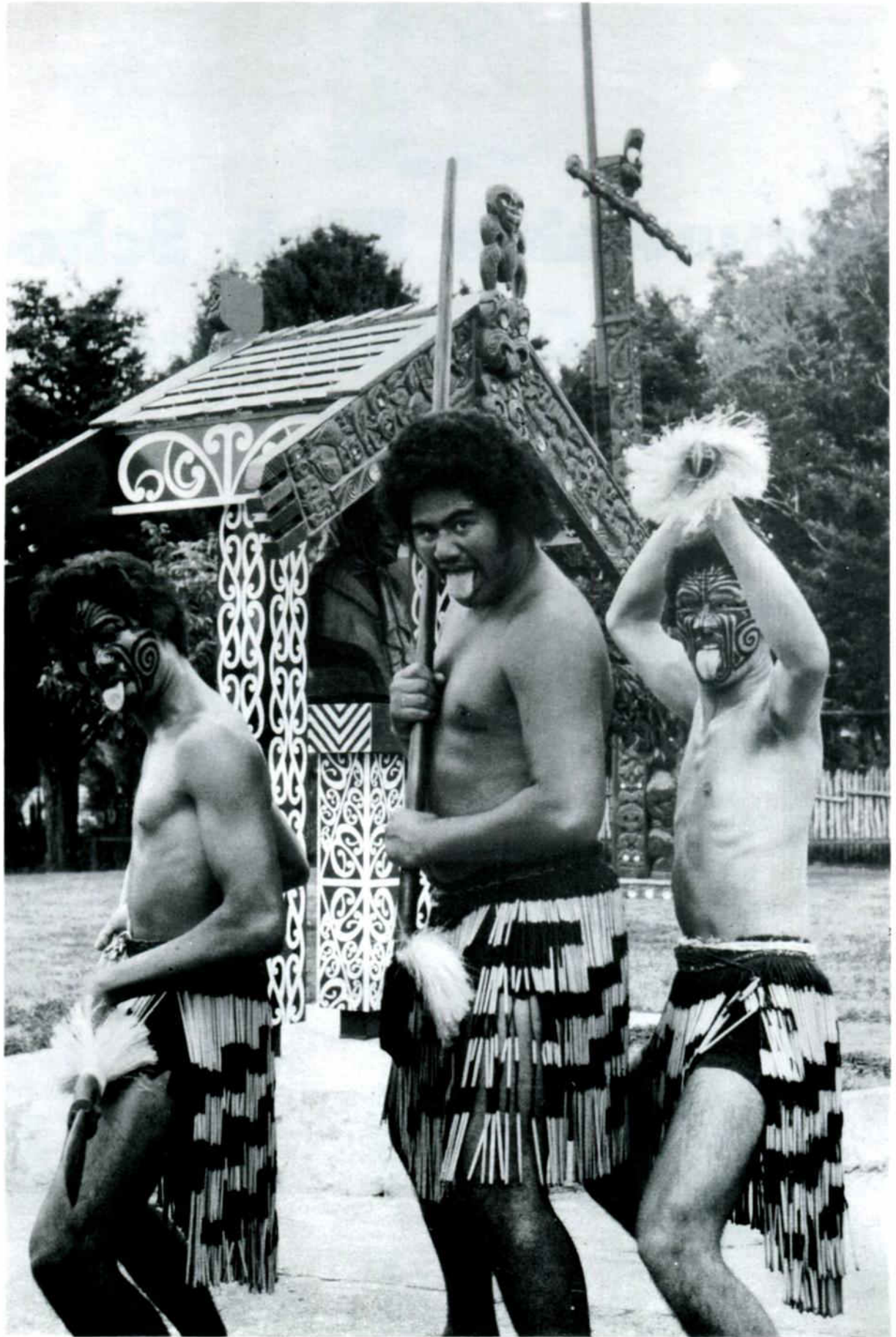
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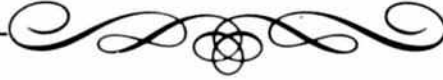
Ngaruawahia High School

Maori Cultural Group





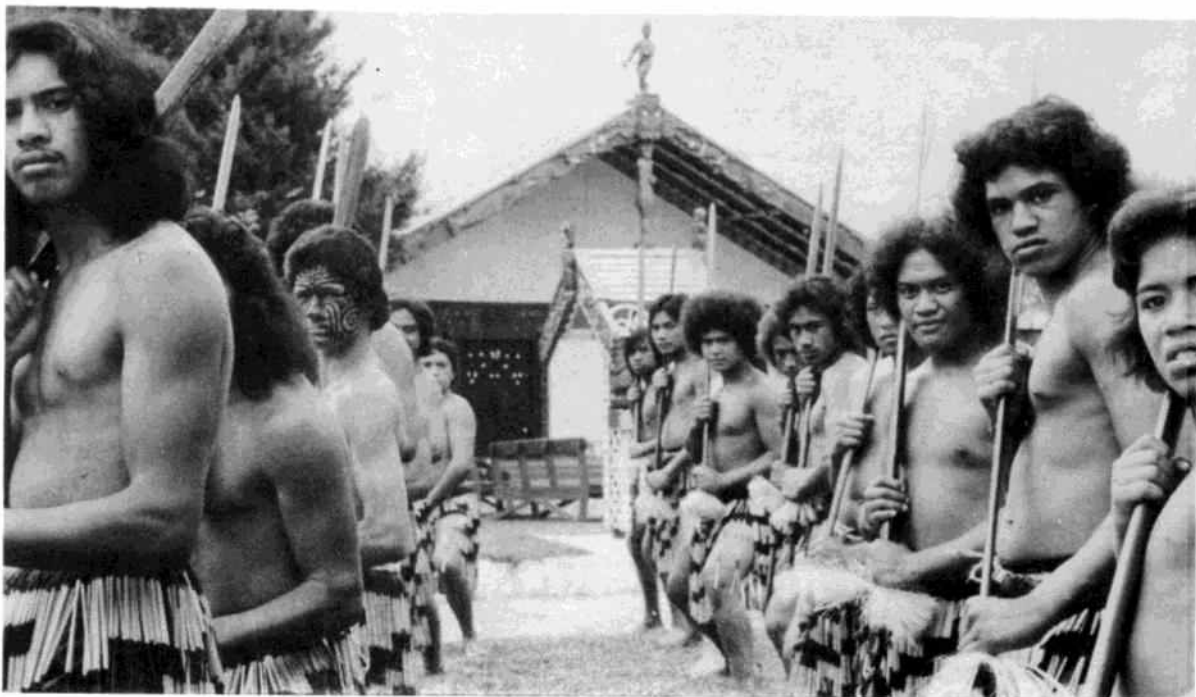
BACKGROUND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM INVITATION



Whilst visiting New Zealand in March 1977, Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, the Guest Conductor for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra was invited to hear the Ngaruawahia High School Maori Cultural Group perform.

Mr Braithwaite was accorded a special Maori welcome at the school prior to hearing the Cultural Group. Following the school's performance of Maori traditional songs and dances, he was invited to view the Turangawaewae Marae, where he was shown the various Maori treasures and cultures, as well as the Marae way of life, which is the priceless gift of the Maori people.

Mr Nicholas Braithwaite is recognised in musical circles as one of Britain's leading orchestral conductors — his record as shown elsewhere verifies this statement. In his opinion the Ngaruawahia High School Cultural Group was one of the most talented entertainment groups he had ever heard. Combined with this, the Maori culture which Mr Braithwaite had now personally experienced was something, in his opinion, the world would be privileged to see and hear.



On his return to Great Britain, Mr Nicholas Braithwaite recommended to the International Festival of Youth Orchestras and the Performing Arts that the Ngaruawahia High School Maori Cultural Group be invited to represent New Zealand at the Annual Festivals to be held in August 1978, at Aberdeen, Scotland, and London, England.

Mr Braithwaite's recommendation was immediately accepted by the International Festival Committee and an invitation from their President, the Rt Hon. Edward Heath M.P. was sent to New Zealand for the Ngaruawahia High School Group to attend and to represent our country at this Nationally representative Festival.

After discussions by a committee comprising the Ngaruawahia High School Board, the parents, and a group of responsible citizens, it was decided unanimously to accept this prized invitation. They committed themselves to the raising of \$60,000 to finance the tour.





THE COMMITTEE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING FACTS:



- [1] Mr Nicholas Braithwaite's sound musical judgement and opinion of the standard of the Group.
- [2] The immediate acceptance of his judgement by the International Festival Foundation in London.
- [3] The high standard of musical and cultural training available at Ngaruawahia High School which arises from the close co-operation between the school and the Marae. This results in the Group conforming with the highest world standards.
- [4] The many benefits to New Zealand of the visit of such a group overseas. The Group will perform to approximately 50,000 people over a period of three weeks.
- [5] The 32 parents and their children's committment to raise \$600 each as their contribution to the tour.

THE NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL CULTURAL GROUP IS NOW FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND THE PERFORMING ARTS IN ABERDEEN AND LONDON.



Mr Nicholas Braithwaite



A superior Orchestral Conductor, he is the talented son of a distinguished musical family.

He was born in London, Educated in Bedales where he had two years as principal trombonist with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

He won a scholarship to the Royal Academy and studied conducting.



In 1961 he won a major Class Scholarship to Vienna.

He has made many major world orchestral appearances, some being:

B.B.C. Scottish Orchestra

Bournemouth Orchestra

Chelsea Opera Group

Welsh National Opera

Permanent conductor Norwegian Radio Orchestra

Many International Guest Conductor appearances including New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

International Festival Foundation

The festival is controlled by the International Festival of Youth Orchestras Foundation of Great Britain with the support of the British Tourist Authority, and the Corporation of the City of Aberdeen.

The President of the Festival Committee is the Rt Hon. Edward Heath – some of the other prominent people associated with the festival are Leonard Bernstein, Walter Sussking, Leon Gousens, and Thor Heyerdahl.

The aim of the organisation is to bring together youth from all nations of different backgrounds, religions, races, and political beliefs, to encourage harmonious living together with the common interest of music and performing arts.

A major aim of the festival is to promote International understanding amongst the youth of the world and to encourage respect and tolerance for one's fellow man.

This year is their tenth anniversary celebration, when a special effort is being made by the foundation to involve even more countries of the world in the festivities. Some of the many countries represented at the festival are:

Israel	U.S A.	Zululand	Norway
Fiji	Brazil	Nigeria	Germany
Austria	Japan	Russia	South Africa

New Zealand is indeed lucky to have been invited to perform at the festivals in August 1978 – Is it any wonder we accepted the invitation – We believe the people of New Zealand will rally to our request for financial assistance.

The Cultural Group

The group was formed in 1975 as a natural development from courses in Maori Studies which have been instituted and provides pupils with an opportunity to develop their talents as a performing group. It has also served to develop a very harmonious relationship between the school and the Turangawaewae Marae.

A group of musical teachers from Ngaruawahia, both Maori and European, has all assisted to bring the group to the high standard they have now achieved.

The group will be assisted by Rev. Kingi Ihakā; to maintain their high standard for thier performance at Aberdeen which will consist of many shows, each of 80 minutes duration. With the added performances in London, we anticipate the group will be heard by over 50,000 people.

The group is very polished in their performance – all of them have close association with Maori music and culture. Two members of the group are grandsons of the famous New Zealand baritone, the late Inia Te Wiata.

The overall management of the group is controlled by Mr Warwick Braithwaite, a teacher at Ngaruawahia High School. His experience and musical ability which is widely recognized in the Waikato will be of great assistance to the general presentation.





The group realise they are ambassadors for New Zealand.

They will represent our country in the highest Tradition of New Zealand.

On their return home, they will continue to perform and pass on their benefits of their international experience to all people, knowing the Maori culture will live on forever.

Special Tour Committee



... comprises an Executive Committee under the chairmanship of the School's Principal, Mr Murphy. Various sub-committees have been formed being:

- Financial
- Publicity
- Social
- Performances
- School Fund Raising Committee.

The convenors of each of these committees are experienced and capable members of the community – each with a specialised knowledge of their group's requirements.

Fund Raising

The tour party will comprise of 40 people, (32 pupils aged between 15 and 19 years of age, and 8 adult supervisors).

On arrival in Great Britain, the Concert Party will perform in London, prior to the festival commencing in Aberdeen. Accommodation, performance fees and grants will be provided during the period of the New Zealand Contingent's stay in the British Isles.

The New Zealand Committee is required to provide funds for the following:

32 pupils	
+ 8 adults	
40 air fares at \$1,200 each	\$48,000
Plus 10% Government Travel Tax	4,800
Plus one night stayover (each way)	
40 x \$100	4,000
	\$56,800
Plus Advertising Promotion Internal Travel and Travel Uniform (minimum)	3,200
	\$60,000
Less individual contributions	
40 persons by \$600	24,000
BALANCE TO RAISE	\$36,000



Our finance committee has discussed the total financial commitment very fully and carefully. We are satisfied the 40 tour members are making every endeavour to raise \$600 as their personal contribution; the committee is also working hard raising funds.

However, there is a limit to the resources of even the most enthusiastic small group, to raise \$36,000.00.

THE NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL CULTURAL GROUP IS NOW FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND THE PERFORMING ARTS IN ABERDEEN AND LONDON.

After much research the finance committee of the Ngaruawahia High School Cultural Group has decided to approach selected organisations and Companies as well as local and central Government to assist financially with this large commitment.

Naturally, your organisation has been included in our selected list of requests and we would appreciate any assistance you may be able to offer.

May we also advise you that our concert party is willing to perform to any large group and we would be particularly delighted to be of assistance to any organisation which financially supports this tour.



The Maori Queen, Dame Te Ata I Rangi Kaahu, expressed her pleasure at the prospects of a Maori Cultural Group travelling to the United Kingdom and fully supports the project.

Also enclosed we would ask you to please carefully study copies of other letters from respected citizens in New Zealand and United Kingdom who support this tour of the Ngaruawahia Maori Concert Party.

The tour organisers are confident that with the continuing goodwill and assistance already displayed by Maori and Pakeha people that this tour will bring great credit to New Zealand and at the same time, create a wonderful forum for the demonstration of Maori culture at its best.

May we ask you to earnestly consider our approach for financial assistance. We are sure that all people who help these young New Zealand ambassadors will be well satisfied with their investment in our country's future.

Thank you for your consideration.

R. J. POLLOCK

FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN FOR
NGARUAWAHIA HIGH SCHOOL

W. J. MURPHY

HEAD MASTER NGARUAWAHIA
HIGH SCHOOL

W. TE WIATA

CHAIRMAN PARENTS COMMITTEE

P. HODGKINSON

CHAIRMAN BOARD OF GOVERNORS



