

# 13. E PAPA WAIARI



E auē, ka mate au  
E hine, hoki mai rā

*Oh, I will surely die  
My darling girl, please return to me*

E papa waiari  
Taku nei mahi  
Taku nei mahi  
He tuku roimata

*My grief overwhelms me  
And all I do  
And all I do  
Is to shed tears relentlessly*

E auē, ka mate au  
E hine, hoki mai rā

*Oh, I will surely die  
My darling girl, please return to me*

Māku e kaute ō hīkoitanga  
Māku e kaute ō hīkoitanga

*I will count your every footstep  
I will count your every footstep*

E auē, ka mate au  
E hine, hoki mai rā

*Oh, I will surely die  
My darling girl, please return to me*

.....

This is one of the most commonly recognised Māori songs and is ideal to use with tī rākau (short sticks used in pairs) to keep the rhythm. It is easy to play on the guitar. Develop actions for each line with students sitting in pairs opposite each other. Each pair can develop their own routine. Consultation with the school community, whānau, and the local marae/iwi will provide a guide to the types of actions that are commonly used for this waiata.

On a copy of the waiata chart, ask students to circle any words they know or have heard before. Use this activity to reinforce the words and their contexts. For example, the teacher could discuss the word “roimata” for “tears” then discuss the phrase “tuku roimata” (shed tears).

*The song sheets for all waiata and haka are at the back of this book.*