

Ngāpuhi's Rising Star Composer

“On behalf of my mokopuna Reuben Rameka I would like to thank Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi O Ngāpuhi for the scholarship he received. He is truly appreciative of your financial support.”

Reuben grew up in Papatoetoe with three siblings. Throughout his childhood they travelled north to Takou Bay to visit their grandparents - they instilled upon Reuben the value of being Māori. Reuben's hapū are Ngaite Uru, Ngāi Tāwake, Ngāti Whakaeke, Matarahuru, Ngāti Rahiri, Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rēhia, Te Aupouri and Te Arawa. The HOD of music at his college was impressed with Reuben's musical skills and encouraged him to pursue his goals.

His grandmother Nora Rameka, said that Reuben intends to complete a Diploma in Teaching after graduating this year with a Bachelor of Music from Auckland University. “He wants to become a music teacher to inspire young musicians and will continue to compose.” Reuben was appointed as a Composer-In-Residence for the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (APO) Rising Star programme. “His new composition work was presented last week at an APO concert in the Auckland Town Hall. It was a success! He has a great future,” says his proud grandmother.