

Lifetime Achievement Award to be celebrated at 2017 Vodafone Pacific Music Awards

The Manukau Institute of Technology Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Rahui Vaka aka **Brother Love** at the upcoming Vodafone Pacific Music Awards on 1 June.

Alongside celebrating our Pacific Music Award winners, there will be live performances from **Aaradhna, Kings, Kylie Auldist, SWIDT, Tommy Nee, La Coco, and Three Houses Down**. There will also be special performances by **SUPA (Saintzup Performing Arts Trust)** and Lifetime Achievement recipient **Brother Love**.

Brother Love is best known for his 1996 classic 'Ruketekete Te Mamae (aka The Roimata Song)'. He has been endeared across the Pacific for this song and for his skills as both vocalist and percussion musician.

He developed a unique sound, which first became known through a string band competition started in the early 1990s by at the legendary Banana Court bar.

His influence encouraged a new sound, which was rawer and stripped-back, reflecting the true sound of the Cook Islands. He has worked with Heimana Music for the last 30 years to promote Cook Island music to the world and off a glimpse of paradise through song.

He has also seen success as a founding member of **Sunset Special**, as well as performing with **The Commodores** when they toured Australia and **The Herbs** during their New Zealand tour.

In 2014, Rahui Vaka was inducted into the Cook Islands Music Hall of Fame. He will now join a prestigious line up of past recipients for the Lifetime Achievement Award, including **Bill Sevesi, The Yandall Sisters, Ardijah** and **Tigilau Ness**.

The awards will be held at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau, Auckland on 1 June and are now in their 13th year. Tickets to the ceremony will be available through www.ticketdirect.co.nz.

Vodafone Pacific Music Awards finalists:

Virgin Australia Best Pacific Female Artist Award:

- **Aaradhna** – *Brown Girl*
- **La Coco** – *Love & Other Things*
- **Olivia Foa'i** – 'Tulou Tagaloa'

NZ Music Commission Best Pacific Male Artist Award:

- **KINGS** – *KINGS EP*
- **Savage** – 'Zooby Doo'
- **Tommy Nee** – *Colorblind*

Niu FM Best Pacific Urban Artist Award:

- **KINGS** – *KINGS EP*
- **SWIDT** – *SWIDT vs EVERYBODY*
- **Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah** – 'Love & Affection'

Radio 531pi Best Pacific Group Award:

- **Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah** – 'Love & Affection'
- **Tomorrow People** – 'Writings on the Wall'
- **Unity Pacific** – *Blackbirder Dread*

NZ On Air Best Pacific Music Video Award:

- **Aaradhna** – 'Welcome to the Jungle' (Directed by Sophie Findlay)
- **Parri\$** – 'Friday' (Directed by Parris Goebel)
- **Three Houses Down feat. General Fiyah** – 'Love & Affection' (Directed by Samson Rambo)

APRA Best Pacific Song Award:

- **Aaradhna** – 'Brown Girl' (Written by Aaradhna Patel)
- **KINGS** – 'Don't Worry Bout' It' (Written by Kings)
- **Opetaiia Foa'i** – 'We Know The Way' (Written by Opetaiia Foa'i and Lin-Manuel Miranda)

SunPix Best Pacific Language Award:

- **Annie Grace** – 'Loimata o le Fiafia'

- **Olivia Foa'i** – 'Tulou Tagaloo'
- **Vai Mahina/Sulata Foa'i-Amiatu, Matthew Ineleo** – 'An Innocent Warrior'

Best Pacific Gospel Artist Award:

- **Annie Grace** – 'Unchangeable Love'
- **La Coco** – *Love & Other Things*
- **Revere** – 'Groove Thing'

Flava Best International Pacific Artist Award:

- **J Boog** – *Rose Petals*
- **Kylie Auldist** – *Family Tree*
- **CRSB** – *Evolution of Love*

Recorded Music NZ Best Pacific Music Album Award:

- **Aaradhna** – *Brown Girl*
- **KINGS** – *KINGS EP*
- **Unity Pacific** – *Blackbirder Dread*

MAINZ Best Producer Award:

- **KINGS** – *KINGS EP* (Produced by Kings)
- **La Coco** – *Love & Other Things* (Produced by Dee Letoa)
- **SWIDT** – *SWIDT vs EVERYBODY* (Produced by SmokeyGotBeatz)

All the finalists:

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| 1. Aaradhna – <i>Brown Girl</i> | 10. Parri\$ – 'Friday' |
| 2. Annie Grace – 'Loimata o le Fiafia'/'Unchangeable Love' | 11. Revere – 'Groove Thing' |
| 3. CRSB – <i>Evolution of Love</i> | 12. Savage – 'Zooby Doo' |
| 4. J Boog – <i>Rose Petals</i> | 13. SWIDT – <i>SWIDT vs EVERYBODY</i> |
| 5. KINGS – <i>KINGS EP</i> | 14. Three Houses Down (featuring General Fiyah) – 'Love & Affection' |
| 6. Kylie Auldist – <i>Family Tree</i> | 15. Tommy Nee – <i>Colorblind</i> |
| 7. La Coco – <i>Love & Other Things</i> | 16. Tomorrow People – 'Writings on the Wall' |
| 8. Olivia Foa'i – 'Tulou Tagaloo' | 17. Unity Pacific – <i>Blackbirder Dread</i> |
| 9. Opetaia Foa'i – 'We Know The Way' | |

18. Vai Mahina/Sulata Foa'i-Amiatu, Matthew Ineleo – 'An Innocent Warrior'

For more information: www.pacificmusicawards.org.nz

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About the Vodafone Pacific Music Awards:

In 2004 the Pacific Music Awards Committee (PMAC) was formed to realise a vision and the inaugural Pacific Music Awards debuted at Pasifika Festival in March 2005. Encouraged by the success of the awards the PMAC set about developing an annual event as a significant highlight of the New Zealand music industry calendar. The awards committee formed a Charitable Trust to organise and host the awards, and are driven by a simple core objective: to create and manage an event that acknowledges the success of Pacific artists, celebrates and promotes excellence in Pacific music and encourages young Pacific musicians to aspire to a higher level of achievement.

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