

Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan

Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan is a live theatrical play which will take place at Tāwhiri Warehouse on 12th – 14th March at 7pm, and 15th March at 2.30pm.

The show is one hour long.

The Tāwhiri Warehouse is located at 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington. It is behind Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre (formerly the Winter Show Buildings), and next to the Circus Hub building.

At a Glance – This Show has:

- Wheelchair Accessible Venue
- An NZSL Interpreted Performance on 14 March, 7pm
- An Audio Described Performance on 13 March, 7pm
- A Touch Tour 13 March, 6pm
- A Relaxed Performance on 15 March, 2.30pm
- A mix of visual and auditory with music, spoken language and projected video
- Limited Content Notes Available



Included in this document

This document includes information about ticketing, the venue, accessible performances, and the show. You can use the links below to jump straight to the information you need or scroll down to read through everything.

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How to Get Tickets

Tickets for the 12th – 14th March performances of Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan cost \$53-\$59 depending on what type of ticket you choose. Tickets for these performances can be purchased online on the [iTicket website](#) or by emailing support@iticket.co.nz or calling +64 (9) 361-1000 or 0508 iTICKET (0508 484 253).

On the 15th March, the show has “choose your price” tickets. This means that you can choose what price you would like to pay between \$39-\$79. Tickets for the “choose your price” show can be purchased online on the [Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts website](#).

Access Tickets

Access Tickets for Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan are priced at \$20. Access tickets are available for anyone who might face barriers to attending shows because of disability or other access needs. You can book an Access Ticket by emailing access@festival.nz or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

You may be asked some questions about your access needs, such as if you would prefer an aisle seat, if you need to be seated early, if you are coming for NZSL etc. You will also be asked about who else is attending with you, so that all tickets can be booked together if possible.

These questions are to help make coming to the show as easy as possible. You don't have to say what your disability is or give any information about it unless you want to.

Companion Tickets

If you need someone to come with you to support you to attend the show, we may be able to provide you with a companion ticket. This might be a friend, family member,

partner, support worker, or someone else who would help make it easier for you to attend the show.

Companion tickets are limited and subject to availability for some events. For more information and to book a companion ticket contact us by emailing **access@festival.nz** or calling **04 830 7854**.

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About the Tāwhiri Warehouse

The Tāwhiri Warehouse is located at 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington. It is behind Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre (formerly the Winter Show Buildings), and next to the Circus Hub Building.

The Warehouse is an exciting newly built venue, which will offer lots of opportunities for Wellington performers. The space can be set up in lots of different ways and may look different for each show.

Building work is currently being completed so that it will be ready for the 2026 festival.

On the next page, there are some photos of what the Tāwhiri Warehouse currently looks like from outside. These photos will be updated closer to the festival, once the building is complete.

This first photo was taken from directly opposite the entrance to the venue.



This next photo is taken from the point of view you will have if you are walking or driving up from the main road towards the venue.



Getting to the Tāwhiri Warehouse

The entrance to the Tāwhiri Warehouse can be hard to find if you haven't been there before. The following photos show the path up from Hutchison Road.

This first photo shows Hutchinson Road, and the Te Whaea National Dance and Drama Centre building.



There are two driveways which lead off Hutchison Road, on either side of Te Whaea. The first, which is to your right as you face the building, is a very steep, curved driveway and footpath marked with a white, pink and blue sign. This is the entrance for cars and pedestrians.



This driveway is quite steep to walk up. For alternative options, please see [Exit Driveway and Alternative Footpath](#).

The entrance to the Te Whaea building is at the uphill end of the building, close to the entrance driveway. From here, there are two more driveways, one leading straight ahead, along the side of the building, and one leading up to the right.



To get to the Tāwhiri Warehouse, you will need to take the driveway leading straight ahead, along the side of the building.



Follow this driveway along until you reach an open parking area. From here, you will pass the Circus Hub building on your left, and beyond that, also on your left, the Tāwhiri Warehouse building.



There are yellow lines painted on the ground, showing spaces where you can walk. If you are driving, please go slowly and watch out for pedestrians. There are several speed bumps.



As you approach the building, you may not be able to see the Tāwhiri Warehouse sign, which is directly above the door, as there is a small enclosure around the doorway acting as a weatherproof entrance.

This next photo is taken from the car park opposite Tāwhiri Warehouse showing the front of the venue, including the door.



This photo shows the door to the venue, where you can enter the building. The actual door will be different at the time of the festival, but it will be in the same place, with the same sign. We will update the photos closer to the time of the festival when the new door is in place.



Exit Driveway and Alternative Footpath

From Hutchison Street, there is a second driveway. It will be to your left as you face the building. It is an exit only, so you can't drive up it.

It does not have a separate footpath. You can walk up it if you wish, being careful of cars driving down, or reversing out of the car parks. This driveway is straight with a fairly steep slope. This exit driveway has a more gradual slope than the main entrance.



There is also a sloped footpath leading up from Hutchison Road to near the Te Whaea main entrance.



Parking – Main Car Park

There is an on-site parking lot which you can use when you are attending a show at the Tāwhiri Warehouse. To find it, enter through the main driveway near the entrance to Te Whaea, and then turn right, up into the car park.



There are several staircases which lead down from the car park to the entrance to Tāwhiri Warehouse, or you can take the narrow footpath to the side of the driveway into the car park area.



There are mobility parks, and a drop-off point outside the venue, with step-free access to the building. If you like, you can drop passengers here, before heading up to the car park to park.

Mobility parks

There are some mobility parks near the Tāwhiri Warehouse entrance. These are on the same level as the warehouse, giving step-free access to the building. There will also be some more mobility parks by the door to the building.



Taxis and Drop off Area

There is a drop off point outside the warehouse where taxis, Ubers, and private cars can drop you off or pick you up.



Public Transport

There are several bus stops near the Tāwhiri Warehouse, including several outside Te Whaea on Hutchison Road. The [Metlink website](#) can be used to plan your journey and find the closest bus stop for your route.

This image shows one of the bus stops on Hutchison Road.



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Accessibility

The Warehouse is an exciting newly built venue. Building work is currently being completed so that it will be ready for the 2026 festival.

The space can be set up in lots of different ways, and may look very different for each show, but it will always have:

- Flat access to the building
- Flat access to the theatres
- Dedicated spaces for wheelchair users
- Front row seats accessible without stairs
- Accessible bathrooms available, built to code with L-shaped grab rails, sliding doors and sinks in the stalls
- Stair-free access routes up from the road and down from the car park.

If you have any questions about the accessibility of the building, you can contact us by emailing **access@festival.nz** or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

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Inside the Tāwhiri Warehouse

The Warehouse is an exciting, newly built venue, which will offer lots of opportunities for Wellington performers. Building work is currently being completed so that it will be ready for the 2026 festival. Once the building is complete, we will add more photos and information.

Tāwhiri Warehouse has a very big open space inside, which can be set up in different ways for different shows, and may look different for each show. Where we can, we will add information and photos of the set up for individual shows.

During the festival, the warehouse will be set up with two different spaces where performances can take place. These will be separated by black curtains. Only one performance will take place at a time.

On the next page, there is a photo of the Tāwhiri Warehouse. This won't be how it will be set up when you come to see a show, but the photo may help give you an idea of the size of the space.

This photo was taken at the programme launch of the Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts. The warehouse will be set up differently when you come to see a show.



Bathrooms

Inside the main entrance, turn right to find the bathrooms. The door is located off the right wall, near the front of the building.

There are two unisex, single stall accessible toilets.

Seating

Seats for this show are allocated. Staff members called ushers will help you find your seat.

There are dedicated wheelchair spaces. If you or someone you are attending with uses a wheelchair, please email access@festival.nz or call Sameena on **04 830 7854** to book one of these spaces.

Box Office

The box office will be out the front of the building in a brightly coloured metal booth.

At the box office, you can buy tickets or collect tickets you have already purchased. This is also a good place to find a staff member if you need help.



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Audio Described Performance and Touch Tour

On Friday 13th March, the performance will start at 7pm. This performance will have audio description available, and there will be a touch tour starting at 6pm.

If you wish to attend the touch tour or listen to the audio description during the performance, you can book by emailing **access@festival.nz** or calling Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

You do not have to attend the touch tour if you don't want to, but booking for it lets us know you are coming for the audio description. The touch tour is free. You will need to collect a headset if you would like to listen to the audio description. Sighted companions with a ticket for the show are welcome to attend the touch tour too.

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NZSL Interpreted Performance and NZSL Briefing

On Saturday 14th March, the performance will start at 7pm. This performance will have NZSL interpretation.

The show will be interpreted by Platform Interpreting and has been translated in consultation with Deaf Consultant Lyneen Allen.

To book for the NZSL performance, please email access@festival.nz. Those who have booked will be sent an NZSL pre-show briefing video before the day of the performance.

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Relaxed Performance

On Sunday 15th March, the performance will start at 2.30pm. This performance is a Relaxed Performance. During this performance, the audience are free to move about, make noise and come and go as they like. The house lights will be on at a low level to make it easier for people to see when moving. The performance on stage will be the same as on any other night. Please check the [About the Show](#) and [Content Notes](#) if you have any concerns about the content of the show.

If you would like more information, please email access@festival.nz or call Sameena on **04 830 7854**.

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Spoiler Alert!

The next sections of this document give more information about the show, what to expect as an audience member, and some content notes. We've tried to avoid spoilers, but if you want everything to be a surprise, you can skip these sections.

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About The Show



Show Blurb

By Music Portrait Collective.

With humour, honesty and a quiet, powerful presence, Samoan musician and disability advocate Fonotī Pati Umaga shares his remarkable story in this compelling new work.

Raised in a church-going family in Wainuiomata, Fonotī was expected to become a minister like his father – but his passion was music. He forged his own path, breaking into the industry, launching a record label and building a career as bass player for The Holiday Makers.

In 2005, a fall left Fonotī tetraplegic, leading to years of challenge and self-made darkness before finding renewed purpose and healing in unexpected places.

Backed by a powerhouse Pacific creative team, Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan blends live music, storytelling and striking visuals to honour a man who continues to rise.

This production was commissioned by Aotearoa New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival and with support from Creative New Zealand's Festival Commissioning and Presentation fund managed by PANNZ.

More About the Show

Music Portrait of a Humble Disabled Samoan is being presented “in the round”, which means that there will be audience members seated on all four sides of the stage. The performers will move around the stage so that they are facing different directions at different times. For some parts of the show, they will have their back to you, so that they can face other audience members.

The show will have a mix of live, spoken performances, live and recorded music, and videos projected onto a screen. The show is based on the real-life story of Fonotī Pati Umaga, and some of the videos will be real historical news footage.

There will be several performers on stage at once. All of the performers will be playing the same character - Fonotī Pati Umaga – at different stages of his life. Only one performer will speak at a time.

What to expect as an audience member

This show is being presented in a theatre style, which means that the performers will be on the stage, and the audience will remain seated for the duration of the show. There will be lights on the stage but the seating areas will be dark during the performance. For the relaxed performance, the lights will be kept low so you can see if you need to move around.

Just before the show begins, there may be a blackout, which means that all the lights will be turned out briefly.

There is no audience participation in this show; you are free to just watch.

We ask that audience members don't try to talk to or touch the performers, and that you keep your voice low if talking to people around you so that other audience members can hear the show. We hope that the audience will enjoy the humour in the show, and you are welcome to laugh out loud, clap or click if you particularly like something.

If you need to leave during the performance, please move carefully but promptly to the aisle to avoid blocking other people's view. When you're ready to come back in, a staff member will help you return to your seat at an appropriate time.

During the relaxed performance, you are welcome to make noise or move around as you need.

Please feel free to approach staff members at any time if you need help.

At the end of the show, there may be a blackout, then bows from the performers as the audience claps. The lights will come back up so you can see to leave the theatre. You are welcome to stay and chat or have a drink in the bar or foyer after the show.

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Content Notes

This show is a new work that is being created for the festival. As a new work, complete content notes may not be available until closer to the time. Below you will find information about some of the things that will be included in the show, but please check back here later for any updates.

Live and Recorded Music – The volume of the music may vary throughout the show.

Haze Effects – haze effects will be used during the show which will make the stage look smokey. There is no real smoke.

Projected Video – video will be projected onto a mesh screen above the middle of the stage. This may flicker at times.

Discussions of Disability and Injury

If any of this content is distressing to you, you're welcome to close your eyes, cover your ears, or leave the theatre at any time. Because the show is being staged in the round, please check with a staff member before coming back in. They will help you to return to your seat at an appropriate time.