



Play the Parekowhai Piano

There is no object I could make . . . that could fill a room like sound can.

—Michael Parekowhai, 2011

Michael Parekowhai's spectacular sculpture *He Kōrero Pūrākau mō te Awanui o te Motu: Story of a New Zealand River* is also a perfectly-tuned Steinway grand piano, and it's designed to be played. Now all we need are the pianists to bring it to life. If you would like the opportunity to play this beautiful instrument and help us fill the gallery with sound, we'd love to hear from you.

We have three timeslots available each day for members of the public to play the piano. You don't need to be an expert, but you do need to be able to play competently for 15-30 minutes. We are looking for solo performances, just you and the piano. No singing or other musicians or instruments. The music choice is over to you. Children are welcome to play, those under 15 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The gallery will be open to the public throughout, so bring along your family and friends to share the experience. Entry is free.

To sign up, please complete the form on the next page.

About the artwork

Created by Michael Parekowhai for the 2011 Venice Biennale, *He Kōrero Pūrākau mō te Awanui o te Motu: Story of a New Zealand River* is a bright red Steinway concert grand piano embellished with intricately-carved Māori motifs. It challenges our expectations around the relationship between Māori and European cultures. Art critic Justin Paton asks, 'Is it a European instrument decorated with Māori carving, or a Māori carving that has engulfed a piece of European high culture?'

Parekowhai's work offers a view of a bicultural New Zealand . . . add your music to it.

Parekowhai's work is re-presented at City Gallery as part of the exhibition *This Is New Zealand*, which takes a critical look at New Zealand national identity, at the stories we've told ourselves—and others—about who we are.

IMAGE Michael Parekowhai *He Kōrero Pūrākau mō te Awanui o te Motu: Story of a New Zealand River* 2011, collection Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

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Sign Up

If you would like to play Michael Parekowhai's piano, please read the information below, then complete and email this form to citygallery@experiencewellington.org.nz or drop it in to City Gallery (Please note the Gallery is closed until Saturday 3 March). Someone will then be in touch to schedule your timeslot.

- The Parekowhai piano is available for members of the public to play from Monday 5 March until Sunday 15 July 2018, at the following times:
 - Weekdays: 11.30am, 12.30pm and 2pm
 - Weekends: 11am, 1pm and 3pm
- You must be prepared to play for between 15-30 minutes.
- Only solo piano performances are permitted. No singing, other musicians or instruments.
- You may play any music you choose.
- Children are welcome to play, those under 15 years-of-age must be supervised by a parent or caregiver.

- Performances are voluntary, no fee will be paid by City Gallery and no busking is permitted.
- City Gallery may record or photograph your performance for publicity purposes.
- City Gallery may publish your name as part of the performance schedule in Gallery signage and online.
- The Parekowhai piano and chair are incredibly precious artworks, please observe the following guidelines while playing to help avoid damage:
 - Wear shoes with soft or rubber soles or remove shoes completely.
 - Please don't wear any jewellery, particularly rings, or clothing that may scratch the piano.
 - Wash your hands thoroughly before playing the piano.

I have read and understood the information above

Performer's name

Parent or caregiver's name

(If performer is under 15)

Email address

Phone number

**City
Gallery
Wellington**
Te Whare Toi

Part of
 experience
Wellington
wellington museums trust

Principal Funder
**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

**THIS IS
NEW ZEALAND**

3 March – 15 July 2018