

David Tapene

Adjudicator for the 2025 SOUNZ-NZCF Te Reo Māori Choral Composition Award



No Tūwharetoa me Te Rarawa ahau. Ko David Tapene tōku ingoa.

Based in Te Taitokerau, David is a pianist, guitarist, composer, music arranger, choir master and kapa haka tutor. He was also a member of the World Choir Games jury in Auckland in 2024.

David has had success with choral and waiata compositions and arrangements for roopu competing at regional kapa haka competitions and Te Matatini, the world-renowned pinnacle event for Māori performing arts. He currently helps with tutoring Hātea Kapa Haka and developing arrangements of their music. He has also

arranged covers of popular songs in Māori such as Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Billy Eilish's *When the Party's Over* and Lewis Capaldi's *Someone You Loved*.

With qualifications in business, management, adult teaching and Māori performing arts, David previously worked in IT, corporate management and tertiary education. He currently works for the Bishop of the Māori Anglican Church in Te Taitokerau and holds a number of governance roles on trusts and boards.

David has five children and ten grandchildren, and has great support from his wife of 45 years, Melody.