

LET'S GET SINGING!

O Le Tauluga

*Traditional Samoan Folk Song
arranged by Dr Igelese Ete (used with permission)*

Verse

O le tauluga o le afa'ai'u mea 'uma
Oli oli malie se'ese'e mai 'ua matagofie
Fa'avai lou tino, tasi ou taga fo'i e ma nino
la fa'atamali'i
'Ua na 'oe lava e sili

Chorus

Lalolagi uma ou te tautino atu e sili o le siva
Samoa
afai la e te fia talitonu sau ia se'i e mai moa
Osi ona faiga e fesuisuia'i e le tumau isi mea e
tasi e le gata i le se'e
tino ao fa'ama'ane'ene'e.

This traditional pese (song) is all about a traditional dance called the tauluga. The song and dance are often performed at the end of Samoan functions and gatherings.

Teaching notes

- Take care to learn the pronunciation of the Samoan language accurately. There are lots of words and the rhythms move quite quickly. Where you have access to expertise, call on students and your school community to help. Repeat the relevant sections of the video as often as you need to feel confident.
- The vocal quality is light and flowing. Don't push for a loud sound. Make each musical line smooth and connected.

About the presenter/arranger



Tuilagi Dr Igelese Ete is the Associate Professor and Associate Dean: Pacific at Massey University's College of Creative Arts in Wellington, New Zealand. Tuilagi is his Samoan chief title hailing from the village of Fatausi in Savai'i. Dr Ete is passionate about the Pacific creative and performing arts and their ability to inspire, empower, educate, and uplift the world.

Warm-ups

Warm-ups help to prepare us physically, vocally and mentally for singing. They relax our bodies, help us build healthy vocal production and sharpen our minds.

Physical/mental

1 Samoan call: Mili pati.

Objective: concentration, listening, energising. This exercise will require students to pay close attention to the leader and respond collectively. Being part of an ensemble, or musical team, helps students develop confidence and collaborative skills.

Mili - rub hands together

Pati/a - clap once with flat palms

Pō - closed clap: clap with cupped hands

Lua pati - clap twice with flat hands

(Physical/mental warm-up, continued)

Tolu tolu fa – three pati, three pō, one pati
Leader calls Hei! Hei! Group responds Hou!

Animals:

Tagi mai le tiger – Argh!
Tagi mai le buffalo – Whoo!
Tagi mai le snake – Ssss!

Vocal

1 I love to sing.

Objective: vocal agility. Energise each note as you sing. The exercise uses a 5-note sequence or scale. The melody goes a little higher each time it is sung. Keep the sound connected and smooth – as if each note joins on to the next one without stopping.

What else could you do with this song?

Extension/Curricular links

- This pese is all about a dance. Reach out to your community and ask if there are people who can share their knowledge of this pese and the dance it refers to with you and your students.
- Here is a documentary from The Coconet TV about the taualuga: <https://www.thecoconet.tv/coco-docos/taualuga/taualuga/> It will give you information for your own knowledge and understanding of the dance. If you consider using it with your students, please watch it first to be aware of all of the content. It is more suited for older students (Year 7/8+).
- View recordings of Samoan dance groups. There are many recordings available on YouTube from Polyfest events around the country. Discuss – do dance traditions across the Pacific share similar characteristics? How do they differ?
- Dr Ete developed the backing track for this pese to feature the distinctive Samoan style of acoustic guitar playing called 'igi'. Draw the students' attention to this. Perhaps you might have someone in your school community who can demonstrate this style live.

- This pese is often sung and danced at community events and gatherings. What traditions can students share from their own experiences of family or community gatherings? E.g. birthdays, weddings, sporting events, church services.

Glossary of musical terms

Melody	A series of notes/pitches that make up a tune.
Phrase	A musical sentence.
Rhythm	The pattern of long and short sounds move the music forward through time. In a song, the rhythm is the pattern of the words.
Scale	A sequence of notes/pitches that follow a particular pattern or structure. There are lots of different types of scales.

Important messages

- Singing is fun!
- It is important for the health of children's voices that they are singing in a pitch range that is not too low.
- Never louder than beautiful. Let the natural beauty of children's voices shine. Understand that the volume they produce is directly proportional to their age, size and stage of development. Encourage healthy singing, not shouting.
- Singing voice, speaking voice, whispering voice – we can use our vocal mechanism in different ways. Ensure that children are using their voices in a 'singing' way. A light and ringing sound will help protect young voices from overuse and possible damage.
- Our body is our instrument. That means that no two voices will sound the same – we are each unique!
- We need our whole body to sing – energy, breath, posture, expression as well as a singing voice.
- Again – Singing is fun! And important! And good for us! Singing every day will energise you and your students.