

Name: Stan Walker - "I AM" - Understanding Māori identity through contemporary music.

Stan Walker - I AM (official video) from the Ava DuVernay film Origin



Stan Walker

Stan Walker is a upcoming artist, who is currently living in Australia but has its root in New Zealand. Although Walker was born in Australia, he is descended from New Zealand Māori and also grew up in his parents' homeland of Tauranga. His recent song I am was chosen to be in the movie Origin.

Māori part:

Refrain / Chorus (2x)

He toiora ahau nōu (I am of your vitality)
Te toi nō Kurawaka (The source from Kurawaka)
Taku rongomaiwhiti e (My unique sacredness)
Tākiri ko te haeata (The dawn breaks)
Anga atu ki te rā (Face the light of the new day)
Whiti, whiti ki te ora e (Shine, cross over to life)

Closing:

Hou mai rā (Resounding)
Tō rongo e (Are your deeds)
Tou mai rā (Received)
Tō karere (Is your message)
Mau tonu e (It remains) X 3
Tūturu whakamaua kia tina! (Bind together, fix and affirm)
Tina Haumi e (It is affirmed)
Hui e (Bound together) Tāiki e! (In unity)

① What elements that we discussed earlier about the Māori could you spot?

② In how far does the video support the song?

③ What is remarkable about the video / song?

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- ① Work with a partner. Each partner takes a different perspective on the song. Note down your thoughts. Then discuss the song with your partner.
- Student A:** What do you think a Māori's opinion of the song would be?
- Student B:** What do you think a New Zealander of European descent would think of the song?

Māori's opinion (A)	New Zealander of European descent (B)

- ② Together with your neighbor, discuss what the intention of this song is.

- ③ *Already done? Great! Discuss why the song was chosen for the movie "Origin" and evaluate whether it was a reasonable choice.*



Context of the movie

The movie "Origin," directed by Ava DuVernay, is an engaging film that examines how historical injustices are linked across different cultures. Based on Isabel Wilkerson's book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents," it looks at the lasting impacts of American slavery, the Holocaust, and India's caste system. The film follows Wilkerson as she travels to Germany and India to study how different societies have practiced dehumanization and oppression. "Origin" encourages viewers to think about past and present issues related to race, caste, and discrimination.



Cover of the movie