Sound project

Our approach to creating this music was driven by interpreting both the literal and metaphorical aspects of the MedArt drawing app through a musical/sound healing lens. Each scene/scape features a unique combination of colours, textures and patterns - and we used these as inspiration for our musical/sound design choices. On the metaphorical front, we consulted extensive notes from Emma regarding the broader meaning/intention behind each scene/scape; drawing from references to elements of nature, breathwork practices and gestural techniques just to name a few.

At the front of our minds throughout the process was the ultimate consideration of the user. Neither of us can claim to empathise with the experience of somebody suffering from dementia, however we tried our best to create audio experiences that would be beneficial for this demographic. One of the ways we approached this was through the use of repetition; using motifs and sounds in a cyclic way, to stimulate short term memory and provide a sense of familiarity. We feel that this approach may well lead to users eventually humming along with the music, which may in turn create a deeper experience when using the app.

Our honest feedback to the team at MedArt would be to treat the musical components of this app as more integral to the research/scientific ambitions of the project. At the moment the music is based on feel and intuition (responding to the app/notes about the app). Whilst feel and intuition are vital to the creative process, we believe that conducting further research into aspects of sound healing (specifically for dementia) would provide a much more informed approach that could lead to more material benefits for the user(s).

Lastly, we feel that this project has the potential to open doors for studying the effects of taonga pūoro on the brain - something that would be incredibly beneficial for the people of Aotearoa. We don't know if this is something that fits within the scope of this project specifically, but we felt it was worth mentioning.

Taonga puoro players - Khali Meari Materoa, Neil MacLeod and Te Kahureremoa Taumata

In the table below you will find the bones of each track, the themes that guided our oro (sound) and how each puoro was used. We approached each composition with the following ideas:
- The entry point. What is the first sound heard?
- The exit point. What sounds bring us out?
- Oro (sound) connection to the senses
- Connection to the physical movements needed with each MinDArt app
- Visual feature of each app
- Creating familiarity between each track by creating recognisable motifs and rhythms

MinDArt	Themes	Oro present in the track
1 - Touch scape	Time Ocean Peace | Rongo	Pūmotomoto - breath in Ocean sound - movement Whale bone pakuru - rhythm Porotiti - breath out Harmonic layering
2 - Line scape	Breath Patterns Rythem In and out Colour and darkness	Toka onewa - eco, scraping, strike Putorino - pop sounds Poi pui, rhythm Stomping in rhythm
3 - Circle scape	Body Movements Connection Left and right	Putorino - melody, eco, popping Whale bone and toroa bone in a rhythmic circle Hue rarā - seeds
4 - Wave scape	Mind Clouds Relationship Scenery	Guitar Pumotomoto Poi piu Putorino pops Repeated motifs from the first 3 Clapped rhythm
5 - Dot scape	Navigate Familiarity Pattern of sound	Putorino touch Iso tones Pūtangitangi Koauau Whale bone
6 - Link scape	Flow Reconnection Unfurling Breath pattern Repetition	Putorino eco Organ Pakuru driftwood Guitar Pumotomoto

		Pu harakeke
7 - Rotation	Flower blossoming Sequence of sound Space Warmth	Synth Ponga ihu Putorino pops Pumotomoto pops
8 - Symmetry scape	Balance Symmetry in harmony Full circle	Pumotomoto Ocean Breath Eco Synth Poi pui Porotiti Organ

Bios and titles

Khali Meari Materoa - Composer & kaitiaki puoro

Khali Meari Materoa of Ngāti Uepohatu and Ngāti Porou ancestry is a lifelong learner of Te Whare Tapere (traditional Māori performing arts). As a storyteller and traditional musician Khali is dedicated to normalising the presence of unapologetic indigenous knowledge in the arts world and confronting the systemic racism and rampant oppressive narratives that restrict the health and wellbeing of humanity.

Neil MacLeod - Producer & Composer

Neil MacLeod is an artist and producer based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Aotearoa.
His catalogue is widely varied, working on projects as a producer, co-writer and mix engineer for artists such as Drax Project, AACACIA, TOI, NOURI & Tekahureremoa Taumata just to name a few. Neil aims to transcend boundaries, working across multiple disciplines with a 'trust the process' approach and an emphasis on interpersonal connections.