**Summary of great Taonga Puoro Starters and Resources**

Thanks to Ben and the Musicnet Community for contributing to this document

A good start is looking at instruments like the Pūrerehua, Kõauau. Which we make at Year 9 and Year 10 respectively. I use Bamboo for the kõauau and wood that I can find for Pūrerehua. They are quite easy to make and instead of sandpaper, we go back to how they made them prior to pakeha and rub the wood against stones and rocks. We also use concrete. My students really enjoy it.

Also, access to tumutumu is really easy. (Sticks and stones). They can create many different sounds taping (open and closed palm), rubbing them but also putting one of the items against your mouth and then tap it and change the shape of your mouth to create different sounds.

Also, seashells you can use to make percussion-like instruments but also you can blow into seashells/snail shells (really small conch shells) and play them like kõauau

It is a fantastic lesson/s. You can also incorporate thinking about Well-being and wairua (spirit). As most students cannot make proper sounds from their instruments unless they are calm and in a relaxed frame of mind.

Brian Flintoff's Taonga Puoro - Singing Treasures is very good and gives you instructions at the back how to make different Taonga Puoro. I used [Wheelers](https://www.wheelers.co.nz/books/9781877333149-taonga-puoro/#desc) (which is a supplier for schools on books) as they were the cheapest. I got my librarian to order it for me.

Two activities that I got taught a week ago was with different tumutumu.

* Demonstrate how you can play the tumutumu and how they can produce different sounds to the group.
* Then get everyone to pick a tumutumu and then sit in a circle (outside is better)
  + Have an ample supply of different tumutumu, as I tell my students that they should get the tumutumu to pick them and if someone picks the same one then just see which other one calls out to you.
* Get the students to close their eyes, and get them to breathe, in through the nose out the mouth and you can instruct them so the whole group does it together.
* Once everyone is breathing and quiet, get them to focus on the sounds around them.
* Give them some time, then get them to focus on a specific sound they hear.
* After some time, get them to imitate the sound with their tumutumu with different techniques you have taught them.
* You should then get an arrangement of different sounds.

Next Activity

* Again in the circle and they now control their own breathing pattern.
* Tell them when they breathe in, they listen to the sounds of other people playing taonga pūoro or the environment and when they exhale try and copy the rhythmic patter either trying to imitate the same timbre or changing it by playing the taonga puoro differently.

It is quite an amazing experience and actually quite uplifting and relaxing. Also, be aware that learning and playing taonga pūoro is not something that can be forced. Sometimes they will not sing properly unless you are calm and your wairua (spirit) is relaxed and in the right space.

Also, I have linked some good videos to see how to make some taonga pūoro or how they are playing them below.

A group of makers and players talking about their journey with taonga pūoro

[Talking Taonga Pūoro 2015](https://vimeo.com/277571638)

Sam Palmer making different types of kōauau

[Hangaia he kōauau . Making māori flutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_EUDHTxJY8&t=2s)

Taonga pūoro wānanga at Whanganui

[Mā te taringa, ka kite- Whanganui Taonga Pūoro Wānanga 2015](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUYrg-UfyJA)

Ariana Tikao, James Webster, Alistair Fraser, and Horomona Horo perform 'Raupatu' | Scrolls 2017

[Ariana Tikao, James Webster, Alistair Fraser, and Horomona Horo perform 'Raupatu' | Scrolls 2017](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7eTKvyTxDU)