

**MEDIA RELEASE: AOTEAROA PROMOTIONS
WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST 2005**

Aussies Star Struck by Kiwi's Barry White Concert

Aotearoa Promotions Ltd will present "Australia's answer to Barry White" in four NZ concerts in October dedicated to the late soul legend, Barry White.

New Zealand born Ash Puriri won the finals of top rating Australian show *Star Struck* this year with his perfect impersonation of Barry White. His performances were watched by 12 million Australians who just "can't get enough of" him. Even musician George Benson called him the "real deal", giving him a standing ovation at Conrad Jupiter's Casino on Australia's Gold Coast.

Ash's four October concerts will be held in Wellington, Palmerston North, Hamilton and Auckland. Transforming Ash to Barry White aka "the Love God" is easy with a designer who was part of the key make up team for movie *Lord of the Rings*. Four and a half hours of primping and powdering and most punters can't tell the difference when Ash emerges onto the stage as Barry White.

Although the Aussies have claimed him as their own, Puriri says he's undeniably Kiwi to the core and that his talents come from his Maori genes and Kiwi upbringing.

Ash's mother, born in Mahia, was a renowned soprano and acknowledged for her powerful vocal ability. His father, a Maori Battalion veteran, was a great sax and trumpet player and vocalist. They were both key drivers in the early development of Puriri's entertaining career along with his ten siblings.

Puriri's vocal versatility means his voice can weave dramatic octaves one minute before switching to a rumbling Barry White voice or even Stevie Wonder's high tenor.

He is famous for singing and performing the great opera arias of Pavarotti, and always receives encores from his emotional fans at each performance of *Nessun Dorma* and *Recondita Armonia*.

Over the years he's been inspired by Luther Van Dros, Nat King Cole and Louis Armstrong as well as Aretha Franklin, Donna Summers and Billy Holiday. Closer to home, Ash says he's always looked up to role models on stage like John Rowles and Sir Howard Morrison.

Ash's NZ concerts will feature his Big Band sound and Vegas Girl Dancers with a blend of his Barry White show and Ash in Concert show. Compered by Maori actor and entertainer, Pio Terei, Ash in Concert will present a collage of contemporary smash hits songs and famous big voices of the past. He will also pay tribute to Billy T-James, Prince Tui Teke, Ricky May, John Rowles and Sir Howard Morrison and make a special dedication to Inia Te Wiata and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa.

Ends

For more information contact:

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Publicist**

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www.ashinconcert.com (*view excerpts of his Barry White show online)

Concert venues and dates:

Tickets can be purchased from Ticketek for Wellington and Auckland shows and TicketDirect for Palmerston North & Hamilton. Tickets are \$55 (booking fees may apply)

5 th October 2005 Wellington	The Opera House 111-113 Manners Street Wellington www.ticketek.com
6 th October 2005 Palmerston North	Regent Auditorium 63 Broadway Avenue Palmerston North 0800 4 TICKET
7 th October 2005 Hamilton	Community Theatre (previously known as Westpac Community Theatre) Hamilton 0800 4 TICKET
8 th October 2005 Auckland	Beaumont Centre, Auckland 98 Beaumont Street, Freeman's Bay, Auckland www.ticketek.com



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