

## **Belonging / Identity**

### **IS THIS PLACE OUR MOTHERLAND?**

**(Finding a New Zealand identity)**

**Tune: IDENTITY**

**Melody: William L. (Bill) Wallace**

**Harmony: Wallace Woodley**

1. Is this place our motherland  
Or is home across the sea?  
Is our culture somewhere else  
Or found here both strong and free?  
Does it seem we have no voice  
Save what comes from other lands?  
Has our spirit now embraced  
This our country in its plans?
  
2. When the mountains mould our minds,  
When the ocean shapes our wills,  
When the forests give us life  
We stand tall as snow clad hills.  
Artists, poets, sculptors find  
Where their spirit now belongs  
As their kinship with the Earth  
Brings new hope and births new songs.
  
3. Let the past enrich our hearts  
But without its servile chains,  
Choosing wisdom which we find  
In our hills and in our plains.  
Let's embrace this fractured land  
As the place where we can rest  
From the homeless wanderer's  
Restless unfulfilling quest.
  
4. If our culture makes us feel  
We are placed above the rest  
Help us know that sacred truths  
Come from both the East and West.  
May we move beyond the walls  
Those with fragile hearts create  
To a fenceless world in which  
Love and art can shape our fate.

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